

## Wednesday, August 5, 2026

**7:30 to 8:30 a.m. / W000**

### **Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication**

Business Session

**Council of Division Plaque/Certificate Pickup**

Moderating/Presiding

**Samantha Higgins**, AEJMC Headquarters

Representative from all DIG groups will stop by and pick up any plaques, certificates, etc. This is a mandatory meeting.

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**7:30 to 9:45 a.m. / W000**

### **Association of Schools of Journalism and Mass Communication**

Business Session

**ASJMC Executive Committee Meeting**

Moderating/Presiding

**Hub Brown**, Florida, President, ASJMC 2025-26

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**8:30 to 9:45 a.m. / W000**

### **Broadcast and Mobile Journalism Division**

Research Panel Session

**The State of Weather Media Studies and Why It Matters**

Moderating/Presiding

**Susan Keith**, Rutgers

Panelists

**name**, affiliation

Weathercasters play an important role in the United States beyond providing forecasts and severe weather coverage. They are trusted science communicators and fact checkers who push back on sensationalism, misinformation, and conspiracy theories relating to weather and climate, which have been extremely important issues in the history of New Orleans, site of the 2026 conference. In doing so, they can contribute to the political knowledge of their viewers on these issues—complicating the prevalent representation of weather segments as soft-news fluff in peer-reviewed literature. In the post-linear era, a number of factors are affecting the job satisfaction and security of broadcast meteorologists, with implications for local television stations and the viewers who rely on their favorite weathercasters for credible information. But despite its importance, the practice and profession of weathercasting has been understudied in peer-reviewed journalism research in the last two decades. This panel of journalism researchers will propose a definition and scope for weather media studies from a journalism studies

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perspective, summarize previous areas of study, highlight areas of ongoing research, and propose an agenda for additional research.

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**8:30 to 9:45 a.m. / W000**

### Communication Theory and Methodology Division

Refereed Research Paper Session

**Title**

Moderating/Presiding

**name, affiliation**

Discussant

**name, affiliation**

**[RP]** = Denotes a Research-in-Progress submission.

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**8:30 to 9:45 a.m. / W000**

### International Communications and Newspaper and Online News Divisions

**[01-0830]** — Scholar-to-Scholar (Poster) Refereed Research Paper Session

International Communication Division [40]

Newspaper and Online News Division [40]

Discussant

**name, affiliation**

**[RP]** = Denotes a Research-in-Progress submission.

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**8:30 to 9:45 a.m. / W000**

### Mass Communication and Society Division and Small Programs Interest Group

Teaching Panel Session

**Teaching from Small to Large Classes: Challenges, Strategies, and Opportunities**

Moderating/Presiding

**name, affiliation**

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### Panelists

**name**, affiliation

This panel, "Teaching from Small to Large Classes: Challenges, Strategies, and Opportunities," addresses the complex pedagogical landscape of mass communication education across dramatically different class sizes. As universities increasingly consolidate courses into large lecture formats while maintaining small seminar options, instructors face unique challenges at both ends of the spectrum. We will examine the distinct difficulties of teaching from 2 to 400+ student courses, including the near impossibility of providing individual attention, the overwhelming burden of assessing hundreds of assignments while maintaining consistency, and the struggle to foster meaningful participation in auditorium settings. The discussion also addresses how to adapt active learning strategies, essential for communication education, to massive classrooms where collaborative exercises become logistically complex. Featuring international and diverse perspectives from the United States, Hong Kong, Australia, and UK, from junior faculty to full professors, this session provides practical, evidence-based strategies for maintaining educational quality across different class sizes. Panelists will share innovative approaches to student engagement, efficient feedback methodologies, and classroom management techniques specifically designed for varied teaching contexts. This panel directly supports the MC&S Division's commitment to teaching excellence and will seek co-sponsorship from related divisions (e.g., PR or NOND division) facing similar pedagogical challenges in mass communication education, offering valuable insights for educators at all career stages.

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**8:30 to 9:45 a.m. / W000**

### Media Ethics Division

High-Density Refereed Research Paper Session

**Title**

Moderating/Presiding

**name**, affiliation

Discussant

**name**, affiliation

**[RP]** = Denotes a Research-in-Progress submission.

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**8:30 to 9:45 a.m. / W000**

### Scholastic Journalism Division

PFR Panel Session

**From Classroom to Community: News-Academic Partnerships Addressing Local News**

Moderating/Presiding

**Sima Bhowmik**, Vermont

Panelists

**Marquita Smith**, Mississippi

**Richard Watts**, Vermont

**Benjamin Cooley**, Vermont

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Panel underscores transformative potential of News-Academic-Partnerships in bridging research, pedagogy and practice while identifying systemic challenges and opportunities for sustainable collaboration between academia and the local news industry.

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**8:30 to 9:45 a.m. / W000**

### Visual Communication Division

Research Panel Session

**AI in Visual Communication: Bridging Newsroom Innovation and Classroom Policy**

Moderating/Presiding

**Elio Leturia**, Columbia College Chicago

Panelists

**Tina Korani**, San José State

**Belén Moreno**, San José State

**Bella Palomo**, Universidad de Málaga

**Manel Palos Pons**, San José State

**John Delacruz**, San José State

The proposed panel offers important insights into how artificial intelligence is reshaping visual communication at both professional and educational levels. It draws on historical and contemporary research to compare current AI-driven collaborations between visual and textual journalists with previous periods of newsroom transformation. Panelists will share international best practices for AI-assisted content creation, image production, and news design, highlighting how leading organizations are developing guidelines and assessing their outcomes. This directly addresses a current issue for the Visual Communication Division: despite AI's widespread adoption, currently in over 75% of newsrooms, there is no clear consensus on ethical and effective integration, leaving significant uncertainty in both industry and teaching contexts. For educators, the panel is especially relevant as students increasingly report anxiety and confusion over inconsistent AI policies not only visual communication curricula. The panel responds to these challenges by offering evidence-based recommendations for frameworks and policies that clarify expectations and equip students for AI-augmented newsrooms. It also explores the ethical complexities that arise when AI-generated visuals blur the boundaries between editorial and branded content which is a central issue in current media practice. By collaboratively developing a practical, adaptable framework for information organizations and universities, the panel fills knowledge gaps around AI's role in newsroom and branded content workflow, production ethics, and pedagogy. This will enhance the study, practice, and teaching of visual communication by providing clear models for responsible, effective AI use, ensuring that innovation proceeds alongside ethical rigor and creativity.

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**8:30 to 9:45 a.m. / W000**

### Community Journalism Interest Group and History Division

PFR Panel Session

**Remembering & Responsibility: Hurricane Katrina Coverage 20 Years Later**

Moderating/Presiding

**Mildred Perreault**, South Florida

Panelists

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**Jarvis DeBerry**, former columnist, *Times-Picayune*  
**Antoine Haywood**, Florida  
**Jinx Broussard**, Louisiana State  
**Judith Livingstone**, Columbus State  
**Terry Baquet**, Editor-in-Chief, *Verite News*  
**Drew Hawkins**, Public Health Reporter, *Gulf States Newsroom*

This panel revisits Hurricane Katrina through the lens of community journalism, 20 years after the storm reshaped the Gulf Coast. Local journalists who covered the disaster will reflect on their experiences reporting from the ground, the challenges of telling community-centered stories amid chaos, and the long-term impact of their work. Historians and media scholars will contextualize how local media shaped public memory and policy. The panel will explore how community journalism has evolved in disaster coverage and what Katrina teaches us about equity, resilience, and local storytelling.

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**8:30 to 9:45 a.m. / W000**

### Internships and Careers Interest Group

Teaching Panel Session  
**Title**

Moderating/Presiding  
**name**, affiliation

Panelists  
**name**, affiliation

Description

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**8:30 to 9:45 a.m. / W000**

### Sports Communication Interest Group

Refereed Research Paper Session  
**Title**

Moderating/Presiding  
**name**, affiliation

Discussant  
**name**, affiliation

[RP] = Denotes a Research-in-Progress submission.

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**8:30 to 9:45 a.m. / W000**

Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication

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Presidential Panel Session  
**AEJMC President's Address**

Moderating/Presiding  
**name**, affiliation

Panelists  
**name**, affiliation

Description

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**8:30 to 9:45 a.m. / W000**

**The Plank Center**

Panel Session  
**Title**

Moderating/Presiding  
**name**, affiliation

Panelists  
**name**, affiliation

Description

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**8:30 to 9:45 a.m. / W000**

**Scripps Howard Fund**

Teaching Panel Session  
**Open-Source Investigative Programs**

Moderating/Presiding  
**Mike Canan**, Scripps Howard Fund

Panelists  
**name**, affiliation

Scripps Howard has funded Open-Source Investigative Programs at the University of Southern California and the University of Memphis. Tools for open-source investigations are available to schools for free or for a small investment. This session explores those tools as well as the types of reporting students can do with them. Using examples from USC and UofM from classes and teaches faculty how to teach open-source investigation tools.

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**10 a.m. to 4 p.m. / W000**

**Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication and Association of Schools of Journalism and Mass Communication**

## Wednesday, August 5, 2026

Workshop Session

**Institute for Diverse Leadership in Journalism and Communication (IDL)**

*2026-27 IDL Jennifer H. McGill Fellows (Incoming)*

**name**, affiliation

Session open only to IDL Jennifer H. McGill Fellows.

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**10:15 to 11:30 a.m. / W000**

**Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication**

**[02-1015] — Scholar-to-Scholar (Poster) Refereed Research Paper Session**

**Advertising Division**

**Broadcast and Mobile Journalism**

**Communicating Science, Health, Environment and Risk Division – [40]**

**Mass Communication and Society Division**

**Magazine Media Division**

**Newspaper and Online Division**

**Commission on the Status of Minorities**

**Commission on the Status of Women**

**Entertainment Studies Interest Group**

**Sports Communication Interest Group**

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**10:15 to 11:30 a.m. / W000**

**Communication Technology and Media Management, Economics and Entrepreneurship Divisions**

PFR Panel Session

**The Pervasiveness of Social Media Algorithms, Artificial Intelligence, Wearable Devices:  
Is it Our Freedom or Our Responsibility?**

Moderating/Presiding

**name**, affiliation

Panelists

**name**, affiliation

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Social media platforms, with algorithms and machine learning, and technology giants such as OpenAI, Google, Meta, Apple, and Samsung are not public institutions, rather they operate as private commercial enterprises. They have become deeply embedded in our communication systems and every media practice, for work and entertainment purposes. Rather than being regulated, these companies profit from user engagement and data, turning personal information into a commodity, rather than a public resource essential to a democratic society. This panel explores a pressing question: How should these corporations be held accountable for the data and content they collect, or should responsibility rest with users for what they create, share, and post?

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**10:15 to 11:30 a.m. / W000**

### History Division

Refereed Research Paper Session

**Title**

Moderating/Presiding

**name, affiliation**

Discussant

**name, affiliation**

[RP] = Denotes a Research-in-Progress submission.

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**10:15 to 11:30 a.m. / W000**

### International Communication Division and Commission on the Status of Women

PFR Panel Session

**Journalism and Gender in the Global South: Women Making News: Silenced but Not Silent:  
Iranian Women Reporting Under Intersecting Oppressions**

Moderating/Presiding

**name, affiliation**

Panelists

**Margaretha Geertsema-Sligh**, Butler

**Dina Dorari**, Colorado at Boulder

**Petra Hany Sobhy Zaky**, American University in Cairo

**Ingrid Bachmann**, Universidad Catolica de Chile

Media scholars have called for the decentering of dominant Western perspectives and increased global inclusiveness in research. This panel will address gaps in research on the intersections of journalism and gender in the academic peripheries of the Global South. It seeks to advance the de-Westernization of scholarship on gender and journalism by foregrounding narratives that have historically been marginalized in dominant research discourses. Despite different geographic locations, women continue to face gendered challenges in journalism careers. This panel will present research on the participation of women in news-making on the continents of Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Panelists will also consider the implications of their research for journalism educators.

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## Wednesday, August 5, 2026

10:15 to 11:30 a.m. / W000

### Law and Policy Division

High-Density Refereed Research Paper Session  
**Title**

Moderating/Presiding  
**name**, affiliation

Discussant  
**name**, affiliation

[RP] = Denotes a Research-in-Progress submission.

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10:15 to 11:30 a.m. / W000

### Political Communication Division

Refereed Research Paper Session  
**Title**

Moderating/Presiding  
**name**, affiliation

Discussant  
**name**, affiliation

[RP] = Denotes a Research-in-Progress submission.

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10:15 to 11:30 a.m. / W000

### Public Relations and Communication Theory and Methodology Divisions

PFR Panel Session

**Research Methods for the Marginalized: Navigating the Challenges of Research Ethically and Effectively**

Moderating/Presiding  
**Staci B. Smith**, Virginia Commonwealth

Panelists

**Arunima Krishna**, Boston

**Katie Place**, Quinnipiac

**Jennifer Vardeman**, Houston

**E. Cisek**, Texas-Austin

**Linda Aldoory**, American

**Brian Smith**, Virginia Commonwealth

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Research with minoritized and diverse publics is increasingly an imperative in public relations research, especially considering the position public relations scholars and practitioners maintain to advocate for publics who may be unrecognized. And yet, accurate and ethical representation of minoritized communities can be challenging, especially when these communities may fall outside of researchers' personal experiences and expertise. As noble a cause as representation may be, many find themselves unprepared for the challenges of studying these publics, raising critically important questions like: How do we reach these difficult to access publics? And once we do, how do we relate to them? This panel features public relations scholars from the recently published edited volume *Research Methods for the Marginalized* which features in-field experiences and imperatives for public relations and communication researchers. The book is sponsored by the Arthur W. Page Center and was published by Routledge.

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**10:15 to 11:30 a.m. / W000**

### **Participatory Journalism Interest Group**

PFR Panel Session

**Beyond information needs: Assessing and supporting informed, connected, and cohesive communities**

Moderating/Presiding

**Letrell Crittenden**, Director, Center for Community-Engaged Media, Temple

Panelists

**Sarah Alvarez** News Futures/Temple

**Jesse Hardman** Listening Post Collective/Internews

**Andrea Wenzel**, Temple

As Press Forward and others scramble to address the crisis in local news in the U.S., there has been increased attention to how we measure and assess the information needs of communities—and the gaps between the demand for coverage and its supply. Complementing this work, some scholars and practitioners have been rethinking whether focusing on information alone is enough, particularly given the current fragmented, high-choice, polarized media environment. In this panel, scholars and practitioners will discuss how they have been grappling with this in their work—from the Listening Post Collective's civic information index, to News Future's efforts to develop and expand on their "hierarchy of information needs" framework, to new engaged research adapting a communication infrastructure theory framework that integrates non-traditional information providers/influencers and opportunities for participatory connection.

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**10:15 to 11:30 a.m. / W000**

### **Small Programs Interest Group and Magazine Media Division**

Teaching Panel Session

**Revitalizing Magazine Courses: Lessons From Universities**

Moderating/Presiding

**name**, affiliation

Panelists

**name**, affiliation

## Wednesday, August 5, 2026

Magazine courses once stood at the heart of journalism and media programs around the world, giving students the tools to craft long-form storytelling, hone their design skills, and do media management. Yet in recent years, many programs have reduced or even eliminated their magazine offerings, leaving a gap for students who wish to deliver niche, premium content. This panel brings together professors, instructors, and media advisors who are interested in/actively teaching magazine-related courses to share how they are reimagining this important part of the curriculum. Together, they will share ideas on how to innovate and make magazine courses relevant to the digital era.

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**10:15 to 11:30 a.m. / W000**

### **Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Elected Standing Committee on Teaching**

Teaching Panel Session

**Teaching Experts Are In: Title**

Moderating/Presiding

**Amanda Weed**, Kennesaw State and **Gabriel B. Tait**, Ball State

Panelists

**name**, affiliation

Description

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**10:15 to 11:30 a.m. / W000**

### **The Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications (ACEJMC)**

Panel Session

**Title**

Moderating/Presiding

**name**, affiliation

Panelists

**name**, affiliation

Description

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**Noon to 1:15 p.m. / W000**

### **Advertising Division**

Refereed Research Paper Session

**Title**

Moderating/Presiding

**name**, affiliation

## Wednesday, August 5, 2026

Discussant

**name**, affiliation

[RP] = Denotes a Research-in-Progress submission.

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**Noon to 1:15 p.m. / W000**

**Communication Technology Division**

High-Density Refereed Research Paper Session

**Title**

Moderating/Presiding

**name**, affiliation

Discussant

**name**, affiliation

[RP] = Denotes a Research-in-Progress submission.

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**Noon to 1:15 p.m. / W000**

**Mass Communication and Society and Communicating Science, Health, Environment and Risk Divisions**

Research Panel Session

**Winning the Grant, Managing the Work: Insights from NSF Infrastructure Awards  
in the Field of Media, Communication & Data Sciences**

Moderating/Presiding

**Terri Hernandez**, Mississippi State

Panelists

**Megan Stubbs-Richardson**, Mississippi State

**Ethan Zuckerman**, Massachusetts

**Rahul Bhargava**, Northeastern

This panel will provide communication and media scholars with both inspiration and practical guidance for engaging with NSF funding opportunities. By showcasing successful projects, ranging from digital media analysis platforms to large-scale content databases, panelists will highlight how infrastructure grants not only support individual research agendas but also create shared resources that advance the entire field. Attendees will gain a clearer understanding of how to frame their ideas within NSF's priorities, prepare strong proposals, and manage awards through deliverables and reporting requirements.

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**Noon to 1:15 p.m. / W000**

**Newspaper and Online News Division**

Refereed Research Paper Session

## Wednesday, August 5, 2026

### Title

Moderating/Presiding  
**name**, affiliation

Discussant  
**name**, affiliation

[RP] = Denotes a Research-in-Progress submission.

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**Noon to 1:15 p.m. / W000**

**Political Communication and Public Relations Divisions**

[03-1200] — **Scholar-to-Scholar (Poster) Refereed Research Paper Session**

**Political Communication Division** [40]

**Public Relations Division** [40]

Discussant  
**name**, affiliation

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**Noon to 1:15 p.m. / W000**

**Scholastic Journalism Division**

Teaching Panel Session

**Teaching and Supporting International Students (in Uncertain Times)**

Moderating/Presiding  
**Ivy Ashe**, Florida Atlantic

Panelists

**Tamara Buck**, Southeast Missouri State

**Lourdes Cueva Chacón**, San Diego State

**Silvia dal Ben Furtado**, Texas at Austin

**Taeyoung Lee**, Indiana

**Ana Ramirez**, Laredo College

**Martin Riedl**, Tennessee

**Melissa Santillana**, Texas Tech

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In today's climate, how can faculty members create classroom spaces that allow international students to thrive? Panelists will share 1-2 practices from courses they teach to help international students adapt and adjust to American higher education.

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**Noon to 1:15 p.m. / W000**

**Visual Communication Division**

PFR Panel Session

**Picturing Homelessness: Developing New Approaches for Visual Reporting**

Moderating/Presiding

**Nicole Dahmen**, Oregon

Panelists

**Deb Pastner**, Texas at Austin

**Kathleen Flynn**, photojournalist, New Orleans

**Tara Pixley**, Temple

Can photojournalists and editors portray the brutal realities of homelessness, while doing a better job of honoring the dignity of those affected? This PF&R panel will examine the legacy of traditional visual coverage of homelessness while seeking new approaches that balance humanity; accountability; diversity/equity/inclusion; and public service. The panel content will draw from academic/professional research, journalistic reporting, and lived experiences. Panelists -- including visual scholars, working editors/photojournalists, a doctoral student, and an undergraduate student reporter -- will discuss how public-interest genres (such as solutions journalism and other ethical, professional, credible, and innovative reporting frameworks) can help to establish a new visual storytelling standard that honors the humanity of individuals who are unhoused, holds the powerful accountable, and facilitates lasting positive impact and meaningful change.

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**Noon to 1:15 p.m. / W000**

**Commission on Graduate Education**

**Annual Luncheon**

Moderating/Presiding

**Briana M. Trifiro**, Northeastern

This luncheon recognizes and celebrates the accomplishments of AEJMC graduate students. The Commission on the Status of Graduate Education (CSGE) will host its annual meeting, share updates relevant to graduate students, provide opportunities for networking, and recognize award recipients and showcased participants. **Pre-registration is required. A meal ticket is required to attend the luncheon.**

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**Noon to 3 p.m. / W000**

**Participatory Journalism Interest Group**

Offsite Session

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### Engaged Journalism Exchange- Supporting Communities

AEJMC's Participatory Journalism Interest Group will collaborate with the Engaged Journalism Exchange project and News Futures to host an offsite meet-up on the theme of "Supporting Communities." Participants will hear about ways people are supporting the information, connection, and organizing needs of their communities outside of traditional boundaries of journalism. We'll also discuss efforts to create infrastructure to support connections between community-led groups and civic media. This session will follow up on a zoom session connecting practitioners and researchers to explore ways to collaborate on research-based community building and civic media efforts. The meet up will include discussions of lessons learned, small group working sessions, and informal networking to connect and encourage collaboration between researchers and practitioners. To RSVP to the meet up and optional Zoom preparation sessions, please sign up: <https://bit.ly/EJE2026> Location TBD

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**Noon to 1:15 p.m. / W000**

### Sports Communication Interest Group and Minorities and Communication Division

PFR Panel Session

#### Playing Defense: Conducting Sports Media Research Amid Anti-DEI Backlash

Moderating/Presiding

**Vincent Peña**, DePaul

Panelists

**Ever Figueroa**, Colorado, Boulder

**Vincent Peña**, DePaul

**Monica Crawford**, Minnesota

In the current political and cultural climate, scholars and educators who center diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in their research and teaching are facing unprecedented challenges. These pressures are acutely felt in sports communication, where questions of race, gender, sexuality, and representation are inseparable from the stories being told both on and off the field. Considering this reality, how can scholars and journalists keep doing their work in the face of increasing authoritarianism, anti-DEI efforts, and attempts to limit free speech at universities across the country? Recognizing that scholars are experiencing this in vastly different ways across this country, this panel seeks to provide a space to discuss strategies, share tips, and provide support for scholars whose work is vital and under immense pressure. This panel would be for scholars and practitioners alike and directly addresses one of the most urgent issues facing both groups: the ability to conduct and teach DEI-focused work in a climate increasingly hostile to such efforts. Across the country, scholars are encountering legislative restrictions, institutional pressures, and cultural backlash that seek to limit academic freedom, undermine DEI initiatives, and silence critical inquiry. For scholars studying sports, it is becoming increasingly hard to "stick to sports" when sports have been a de facto battleground for many cultural and political issues (i.e., transgender rights, athlete activism, immigration enforcement, etc.).

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**Noon to 1:15 p.m. / W000**

### Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Elected Standing Committee on Publication and Council of Divisions

Business Session

**AEJMC Journal Editors and DIG Journal Editor's Meeting**

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Moderating/Presiding  
**name**, affiliation

This lunch session is intended for all AEJMC association journal editors, as well as editors from divisions and interest groups. This session is sponsored by Sage Publications.

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**Noon to 1:15 p.m. / W000**

**College Media Advisors**

Research Session  
**Title**

Moderating/Presiding  
**name**, affiliation

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**1:45 to 3 p.m. / W000**

**Communicating Science, Health, Environment and Risk and Mass Communication and Society Divisions**

PFR Panel Session

**Addressing the Societal, Health, and Ethical Implications of AI and Tech in Today's Information Environment**

Moderating/Presiding  
**Christopher (CJ) Calabrese**, Clemson

Panelists

**Isabelle Freiling**, Utah  
**Soojong Kim**, California, Davis  
**Ashley Hedrick McKenzie**, Clemson  
**Rita (Rongwei) Tang**, Minnesota

This panel examines the ethical, health, and societal implications of AI and technology. Panelists will consider how journalists and scholars can address the challenges of a distorted information environment and propose strategies to foster a more accurately informed society.

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**1:45 to 3 p.m. / W000**

**Communication Theory and Methodology, Cultural and Critical Studies and History Divisions and Religion and Media Interest Group**

**[04-1200] — Scholar-to-Scholar (Poster) Refereed Research Paper Session**

**Communication Theory and Methodology Division** [20]  
**Cultural and Critical Studies Division** [20]  
**History Division** [20]  
**Religion and Media Interest Group** [20]

## Wednesday, August 5, 2026

Discussant

**name**, affiliation

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**1:45 to 3 p.m. / W000**

### **Magazine Media and Media Ethics Divisions**

PFR Panel Session

**'Trolling' Media: Deconstructing Press Freedoms and Responsibilities in Trump 2.0**

Moderating/Presiding

**name**, affiliation

Panelists

**name**, affiliation

Vanity Fair and Time magazines as well as other outlets have been reporting on the tensions between mainstream journalism and the Trump Administration. Discussions around ethics, objectivity, and “stenographers” and “influencers” versus journalists dominate coverage, especially after more than 40 of the Pentagon press corps walked out for refusing to sign the administration’s restrictive reporting rules for classified and unclassified information. This panel will invite participants to contextualize the current situation and its implications and strategize on a way forward in scholarship and education.

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**1:45 to 3 p.m. / W000**

### **Minorities and Communication and Communication Technology Divisions**

Teaching Panel Session

**From Prompts to People: Teaching AI to Tell Stories that Reflect Culture and Community**

Moderating/Presiding

**Rafael Matos**, Northwestern

Panelists

**name**, affiliation

Artificial intelligence is more than a shortcut to content creation; it has become a creative partner in communication and marketing. The challenge is not what AI can do, but what we teach it to do. This panel explores how educators and practitioners can use prompt generation and AI-assisted storytelling to shape integrated marketing communication (IMC) campaigns that honor culture, authenticity, and the lived experiences of racially marginalized

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communities in the United States. We will examine how AI can uncover cultural insights, amplify underrepresented voices, and help brands tell richer, more human-centered stories while balancing the ethical boundaries communicators must navigate. Attendees will consider the question: How can we teach both students and machines to tell stories that see people, not just data? We will address this by:

- Highlighting how thoughtful prompting can guide AI systems to produce narratives grounded in empathy, accuracy, and inclusivity.
- Examining how prompts act as a new form of authorship where word choice, framing, and cultural awareness determine whether AI-generated messages connect or alienate.
- Exploring strategies for integrating AI tools such as ChatGPT, DALL-E, and audience analytics into classroom instruction and campaign design.

Attendees will leave with practical examples, classroom approaches, and ethical frameworks for using AI to build inclusive narratives that reflect real communities. This session bridges technology, pedagogy, and culture to explore the next frontier of integrated marketing communication by moving from prompts to people.

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**1:45 to 3 p.m. / W000**

### **Public Relations Division and Internships and Careers Interest Group**

Research Panel Session

#### **Strategic from Day One: Early PR Agency Careers in an AI-Accelerated Industry**

Moderating/Presiding

**Adrienne A. Wallace**, Grand Valley State

Panelists

**Julie O'Neil**, Texas Christian

**Emily Kinsky**, West Texas A&M

**Kim Sample**, PR Council

**Dave Maher**, Zehnder

**Allison Stiel**, Zehnder

**Rashaun Harris**, NextGen PR Group

AI is automating many of the foundational tasks that once defined entry-level agency roles in public relations, such as drafting and posting content, media monitoring, and tracking coverage. As many of these tasks can now be accomplished by AI, junior employees are expected to contribute strategically much earlier in their careers. But how can emerging talent deliver high-level thinking without the experiential runway that traditionally builds those skills? Drawing upon five focus groups conducted with agency leaders from diverse roles, including CEOs, HR leaders, account managers, and digital specialists, this panel brings together leading agency leaders and educators to discuss: (1) which PR tasks are being automated and what's replacing them, (2) how agencies are redefining entry-level expectations, (3) what educators can do to prepare students for strategic thinking earlier, and (4) what career development looks like moving forward.

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**1:45 to 3 p.m. / W000**

### **Commission on Graduate Education**

Teaching Panel Session

#### **Teaching and Generative AI: Friend or Foe?**

Moderating/Presiding

**name**, affiliation

## Wednesday, August 5, 2026

Panelists

**name**, affiliation

The focus of the panel is on how generative AI can be used as a teaching tool in lesson preparation and in the classroom. Topics discussed will be Gen AI as a tool that can be abused by students, how to teach students to use it responsibly, and how the instructor can use Gen AI to help with lesson planning. Attendees will learn how to approach Gen AI as a tool that can be responsibly used instead of as a tool for cheating.

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**1:45 to 3 p.m. / W000**

### **Commission on LGBTQIA+ Communities**

PFR Panel Session

**Digital Injustice: Algorithmic Structures and LGBTQIA+/Minorities' Marginalization**

Moderating/Presiding

**Julio Martin Velasquez Berrios**, Miami

Panelists

**Minjie Li**, Tennessee

**Cody Hays**, Arizona State

**Caleb Okereke**, Northeastern

Digital platforms are now central spaces for LGBTQIA+ visibility, community-building, and advocacy. Yet, these same environments often reproduce existing systems of inequality through algorithmic design, AI, and data-driven bias. This panel explores how social media algorithms, artificial intelligence, and content moderation systems perpetuate — and sometimes conceal — new forms of digital injustice that disproportionately impact LGBTQIA+ users. By bringing together scholars studying digital communication, media ethics, and queer representation, this session aims to unpack the mechanisms of algorithmic oppression and highlight strategies for resistance and accountability. Panelists will address how algorithmic infrastructures reinforce heteronormative, cisnormative, and racialized hierarchies through opaque forms of data sorting, visibility filtering, and content suppression. Empirical and critical perspectives will reveal how queer content creators and everyday users experience uneven exposure and erasure. Drawing from current research, the discussion will situate these phenomena within broader conversations about platform data surveillance for the commodification of identity, queering AI research methodologies and progressive research/ activist research as a solution to cope with these societal issues.

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**1:45 to 3 p.m. / W000**

### **Commission on the Status of Minorities**

Research Panel Session

**Title**

Moderating/Presiding

**name**, affiliation

Panelists

**name**, affiliation

## Wednesday, August 5, 2026

Description

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**1:45 to 3 p.m. / W000**

### **Commission on the Status of Women**

High-Density Refereed Research Paper Session

**Title**

Moderating/Presiding

**name**, affiliation

Discussant

**name**, affiliation

**[RP]** = Denotes a Research-in-Progress submission.

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**1:45 to 3 p.m. / W000**

### **Entertainment Studies Interest Group**

Refereed Research Paper Session

**Title**

Moderating/Presiding

**name**, affiliation

Discussant

**name**, affiliation

**[RP]** = Denotes a Research-in-Progress submission.

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**1:45 to 3 p.m. / W000**

### **Association of Schools of Journalism and Mass Communication**

Current Issues Research Roundtable Session

**Title**

Moderating/Presiding

**Kim Bissell**, Louisiana State, President-Elect, ASJMC 2025-26

Panelists

**name**, affiliation

## Wednesday, August 5, 2026

ASJMC's annual Current Issues panel explores trends related to the future of program administration. Topics will include changing instructional modes, diversity and inclusion, faculty/staff hiring and retention, remote work, and managing mental health, among others.

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**1:45 to 3 p.m. / W000**

### **JHistory Internet Group**

Research Panel Session

**If You Think Artificial Intelligence is Disruptive, Just Look Behind You: An Examination of Turbulent Times in Media History in which Everything was Overturned**

Moderating/Presiding

**David T. Z. Mindich**, Temple

Panelists

**Mitchell Stephens**, New York

**Brian Creech**, Lehigh

**Meta Carstarphen**, Oklahoma

**Soomin Seo**, Sogang

**Seunghoon Cha**, Sogang

Description

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**3:30 to 4:45 p.m. / W000**

### **Advertising Division**

Research Panel Session

**Storytelling at Scale: How Platforms Shape Audience Experience and Strategic Communication**

Moderating/Presiding

**Eunjin (Anna) Kim**, Southern California

Panelists

**ESPN**

Louisa Frahm, SEO Director

**Google/YouTube**

YouTube Research Manager or UX Research Director at Google

**Webtoon**

CMO or Research Director

**Disney**

Global Content Planning

**Netflix**

Lead Communications

**Dadourian Ventures**

Thomas Dadourian, CEO/Founder

## Wednesday, August 5, 2026

Advertising now unfolds across interconnected media environments where audiences discover, navigate, and engage with stories through platforms like Google, Netflix, Webtoon, and ESPN. Search pathways influence how narratives are found, UX flows guide how they are experienced, and entertainment ecosystems shape how they are interpreted. As AI-driven personalization and creative tools enter the mix, the boundaries between content, interface, and communication strategy continue to shift. This panel brings together experts in audience discovery, UX and interface design, entertainment communication, and platform strategy to discuss how stories travel across search environments, content feeds, mobile interfaces, entertainment IP, and creator ecosystems. Panelists will explore how design, narrative structure, and AI-assisted experiences shape engagement and what it takes to craft compelling communication across different platform architectures. The session invites scholars and educators to consider how storytelling, AI, and audience experience interact across platforms and how advertising programs can prepare students for communication careers shaped by discovery, interaction, and emerging creative technologies.

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**3:30 to 4:45 p.m. / W000**

### **Broadcast and Mobile Journalism Division**

Refereed Research Paper Session

**Title**

Moderating/Presiding

**name, affiliation**

Discussant

**name, affiliation**

[RP] = Denotes a Research-in-Progress submission.

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**3:30 to 4:45 p.m. / W000**

### **Cultural and Critical Studies and Media Ethics Divisions**

PFR Panel Session

**“Journalism Schools: If Not Today, Then When?”**

Moderating/Presiding

**Maven Navarro, Alabama**

Panelists

**Nicole Kraft, Ohio State**

**Anita Varma, Texas**

**Anisha Dutta, The Guardian, Al-Jazeera, and Newsweek**

**Matthew Kendrick, former associate producer at Fareed Zakaria GPS**

**Kourosh Ziabari, New Lines Magazine**

Journalism schools occupy a uniquely powerful position in the current media landscape. Unencumbered by bureaucratic constraints, they command academic independence, professional networks, and advocacy resources capable of shielding emerging journalists from escalating threats—curtailment of First Amendment protections, political violence, and shrinking public media funding. Yet their mandate is growing more complex, especially as the spectrum of challenges implicating professional journalists widens. Non-citizen journalists have been deported, and

## Wednesday, August 5, 2026

public broadcasters are threatened with the non-renewal of their license. These are issues that journalism schools are equipped to address. As of October 2025, at least 15 states have restricted DEI initiatives in higher education through laws banning “divisive concepts” and defunding related programs, pressures compounded by recent federal executive actions. These legal shifts create acute ethical dilemmas for journalism and mass communication educators tasked with teaching harm minimization and critical analysis of power structures. This panel convenes educators and practitioners from affected and unaffected states to share strategies for upholding core pedagogical principles and offer recommendations to journalism schools to safeguard their mission.

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**3:30 to 4:45 p.m. / W000**

### **Law and Policy Division**

Refereed Research Paper Session

**Title**

Moderating/Presiding

**name, affiliation**

Discussant

**name, affiliation**

[RP] = Denotes a Research-in-Progress submission.

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**3:30 to 4:45 p.m. / W000**

### **Media Management, Economics and Entrepreneurship Division**

Refereed Research Paper Session

**Title**

Moderating/Presiding

**name, affiliation**

Discussant

**name, affiliation**

[RP] = Denotes a Research-in-Progress submission.

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**3:30 to 4:45 p.m. / W000**

### **Minorities and Communication Division and Religion and Media Interest Group**

Research Panel Session

**Beyond Roux and Voodoo: Race, Religion and Food in a Southern Context**

Moderating/Presiding

**Rafael O. Matos, Northwestern**

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### Panelists

From the Margins to the Center: Engaging in Decoloniality in *High on the Hog & No Passport Required*

**Nahla Bendefaa**, Oregon and **Tewodros Workneh**, Kent State

Reclaiming Edna Lewis

**Teresa Moore**, University of San Francisco

AI and Religion in the American South.

**Nihar Sreepada**, Louisiana State

Voodoo and the American Press

**Joseph B. Treaster**, University of Miami

An examination of representation and misrepresentation of race, religion and culture, especially in the American South and other borders, real and imagined. The panel will consist of four researchers. Scholars will share research that explores the relationships between minority and majority cultures. Topics will include: a discussion of Debra Freeman's documentary about Edna Lewis's legacy among Black chefs and food writers; representations of the culinary histories of the African diaspora in global media; southern religion in an AI world; and how mainstream secular press portrays Voodoo within a secular and materialist culture.

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**3:30 to 4:45 p.m. / W000**

### **Newspaper and Online News Division and Participatory Journalism Interest Group**

PFR Panel Session

**Can Journalists Still Be “Guardians of Democracy”? News Organizations’ Role in Promoting Literacies of Democratic Life**

Moderating/Presiding

**Kim Walsh-Childers**, Florida

Panelists

**Joshua Scacco**, South Florida

**Huma Rasheed**, Pennsylvania

**Angele Latham**, *The Tennessean*

This panel will discuss what role journalists should play in ensuring that democratic publics understand both the structures and functions of government at local, state and federal levels and, indeed, that the public understands critical elements of democracy itself, including the “what” and “why” of such concepts as governmental checks and balances, the peaceful transfer of power and the need for public and press oversight of government actions. It will address questions of what steps can news organizations take, beyond news coverage, to engage their communities to improve civic literacy and civic engagement, as well as whether journalists should change the way they cover government to promote better public understanding of its structures and functions.

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**3:30 to 4:45 p.m. / W000**

### **Commission on Graduate Education and Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Elected Standing Committee on Teaching**

**[00-1630] — Scholar-to-Scholar (Poster) Refereed Research Paper Session**

Commission on Graduate Education Showcase (40 papers)

## Wednesday, August 5, 2026

[RP] = Denotes a Research-in-Progress submission.

Research presentations should be placed on the board with the corresponding **numbers in read** in the conference program. This will help ensure a smooth flow and easy access to all presentations during the session. To facilitate this process, presentations may be put in place beginning **30-minutes** prior to your assigned presentation time. This will allow for ample time to set up and make any necessary adjustments before the session begins. We appreciate your cooperation in making sure that all presentations are displayed accurately and efficiently.

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**3:30 to 4:45 p.m. / W000**

**Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Elected Standing Committee on Teaching G.I.F.T. Competition** (40 entries)

**[00-1630] — Poster Projects**

Discussants

**name**, affiliation

This G.I.F.T. poster session will showcase peer-reviewed teaching ideas from across AEJMC's divisions, focusing on the uses of AI in mass communication education. Taking cues from some of the top journalism, public relations, and advertising educators, journalism presenters will be available to share the nuances of implementing their assignments. Come over and learn how generative AI is being used to enhance student learning, media literacy, and ethical decision-making

Research presentations should be placed on the board with the corresponding **numbers in read** in the conference program. This will help ensure a smooth flow and easy access to all presentations during the session. To facilitate this process, presentations may be put in place beginning **30-minutes** prior to your assigned presentation time. This will allow for ample time to set up and make any necessary adjustments before the session begins. We appreciate your cooperation in making sure that all presentations are displayed accurately and efficiently.

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**3:30 to 4:45 p.m. / W000**

**Commission on the Status of Women, Small Programs Interest Group, Commission on the Status of Minorities and Commission on LGBTQIA+ Communities**

Teaching Panel Session

**Academic Freedom in the Age of Outrage: Strategies for Educators and Scholar-Activists**

Moderating/Presiding

**Laura Willis**, Quinnipiac

Panelists

**Gabriel B. Tait**, Ball State

**Ashley Kennard**, Ohio Wesleyan

**Gheni Platenburg**, Houston

**Senta Scarborough**, East Tennessee State

**Tamara Welter**, Baylor

**Christina Littlefield**, Pepperdine

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In an era of heightened pressure on higher education marked by political polarization, disinformation, and rising civic unrest, educators face growing challenges in teaching journalism, media literacy, and advocacy within media contexts. This panel brings together teacher-scholars who integrate media literacy, strategic communication, and social justice into their pedagogy while examining how contemporary platforms amplify divisive content and challenge traditional norms of journalistic engagement. Panelists will explore strategies for helping students uphold journalistic ethics while fostering open dialogue about media and information systems. Drawing on the long-standing experiences of faculty who have navigated contested discourse in academia for years, the discussion highlights how their insights can guide colleagues facing similar pressures today. Panelists will share approaches to addressing controversial topics, managing student bias, and designing responsive syllabi that support critical thinking and ethical participation in public discourse.

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**3:30 to 4:45 p.m. / W000**

### **Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Elected Standing Committee on Research**

Award Panel Session

#### **Deutschmann Award**

Moderating/Presiding

**name**, affiliation

Panelists

**name**, affiliation

Description

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**3:30 to 4:45 p.m. / W000**

### **Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication News Engagement Day Committee**

Research Panel Session

#### **Finalists and Winner of Research Grant for Innovative News Audience and News Engagement Studies**

Moderating/Presiding

**Paula M. Poindexter**, Texas at Austin, Chair, News Engagement Day Committee

*Research Grant Finalists in Alphabetical Order*

2026 AEJMC-NED Grant for Innovative Research on the News Audience and News Engagement  
Tips for Success

2026 #NewsEngagement Day, Tuesday, October 5, 2026

**Samantha Higgins**, Communication Director, AEJMC/ASJMC

Acknowledgments and Closing Remarks

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**5:15 to 6:45 p.m. / W000**

# Wednesday, August 5, 2026

## Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication

### General Session and Keynote

Moderating/Presiding

**Bey-Ling Sha**, Texas Tech, President, AEJMC 2025-26

### General Session

#### 2025-26 In Memoriam: A Tribute to Those We've Lost

Installation of 2026-27 AEJMC President

**Mia Moody**, Baylor

#### Award Recognitions

Presentation of Scripps Howard Awards

Introduction

**Meredith Delaney**, President and CEO, Scripps Howard Fund

2025 Scripps Howard Journalism & Mass Communication

Teacher of the Year Award Recipient

**name**, affiliation

2025 Scripps Howard Journalism & Mass Communication

Administrator of the Year Award Recipient

**name**, affiliation

#### AEJMC Award Recognitions

Eleanor Blum Distinguished Service to Research Award

**name**, affiliation

Dorothy Bowles Public Service Award Recipient

**name**, affiliation

Gene Burd Urban Journalism Award Recipient

**name**, affiliation

Gene Burd Award for Research in Urban Journalism Studies Recipient

*Title*

**name**, affiliation

Paul J. Deutschmann Award for Excellence in JMC Research Recipient

**name**, affiliation

Hillier Kriegbaum Mid-Career Award Recipient

**name**, affiliation

James A. Tankard Jr. Book Award Recipient

*Title*

[Press]

**name**, affiliation

Knudson Latin America Prize Recipients

*Title*

[Press]

**name**, affiliation

Lillian Lodge Kopenhaver Outstanding Early-Career Woman Scholar Award

**name**, affiliation

Lionel C. Barrow, Jr. Award for Distinguished Achievement in Diversity

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Research and Education Recipient

**name**, affiliation

Nafziger-White-Salwen Dissertation Award Recipient

**name**, affiliation

Teaching Best Practices Competition Award

*Title*

**name**, affiliation

**Keynote Session Speaker**

*Title*

**name**, affiliation

Description

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**7 to 8:30 p.m. / W000**

**Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication**

**Opening Reception**

Hosting

**Bey-Ling Sha**, Texas Tech, President, AEJMC 2025-26

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