

PR UPDATE

The newsletter for AEJMC's Public Relations Division

Volume 60, No. 1 | March 2026



Spring Issue

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PR UPDATE

Vol. 60, No. 1; March 2026

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and contributions
to jranta@coastal.edu

editor's note:
Jeffrey Ranta
Coastal Carolina



A message from the editor

Hello from the Editors

We are pleased to send you our newest newsletter. This spring edition features information about things coming up and celebrates recent activities. It also offers a countdown to our upcoming conference in the Big Easy/Crescent City.

As we all work our way to summer in New Orleans, so many of us in the PRD are busy teaching, researching and serving in our universities, our greater public relations community and our public relations division. I have enjoyed seeing several of you on various virtual panels this year and hope this finds everyone well.

As I am writing this, Spring has sprung here in South Carolina, there are now more hours of sunlight per day than darkness which is somehow appropriate to where we find ourselves in the world today. Looking out the back window of my home office, I see birds building a nest in a blooming pear tree, yellow smudges of pollen everywhere and a Canada goose preparing for a new family by our community pond. This last observation fills me with both joy and dread.

It is refreshing to see a new batch of goslings growing up around us here, but the time between nesting and hatching is stressful for everyone-especially their feathery parents as they claim a good bit of my yard as their own when on the nest. It is hard to resent a pair of birds protecting their young, but their zeal can be problematic. Hopefully I will not end up on a random viral video fleeing an overprotective goose while trying to relax on my patio.

Canada geese here are like so many other tourists visiting Myrtle Beach. They fly from up north to visit, have a great time, and decide to never leave. I am not an ornithologist, but I expect one could easily identify a Canada goose (*Branta canadensis*) subspecies here. Instead of *B. canadensis*, they might be called (*B. ex-canadensis*) or even (*B. never leaves-canadensis*).

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this newsletter. For future issues, please feel free to send anything you would like published my way (jranta@coastal.edu). We are constantly seeking content,

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A message from the editor

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and we love celebrating your research achievements, teaching achievements, civic engagements and career milestones. I continue to be impressed with the hard work of those in this division, and love the opportunity to acknowledge your contributions, encourage you, or just recognize you as the great people you are.

Some easy newsletter hits include book reviews, shout outs and news briefs of what your committee or department or college is doing to forward the practice of public relations as well as job postings and publications/research presented.

By the way, be sure to check out this edition's *What's on my coffee table* book review—it has a special shout out to our PRD authors contributing to a new text just published. Thanks to Bloomsbury press and the text's editing team for what we all hope will be a valuable contribution to study and practice of public relations.

The whole egg laying process and raising goslings reminds me a little of the research part of our careers. You work hard on a project. You labor to produce your study or article or chapter. It is then sent to the publisher, and you sit on the results, waiting for the “hatch.”

You hope that baby will delight those around you. But in your heart, you know that egg, and the associated process bringing it to fruition, is something you will be proud of regardless of how others may see it.

Also my personal thanks to those in the PRD servicing our social media sites and our community blogs. You are providing valuable information to us all. And in the spirit of collaboration, please feel free to send a summary of any of your work that is evergreen so we can feature it in our next edition.

Sincerely,

Jeff Ranta

Upcoming AEJMC Events

April 21 | Webinar: Upside Down or Inside Out: Navigating Challenges in Mass Communication Teaching, Research and Service

<https://www.aejmc.org/aejmc-events/webinars>

August 5 - 8 | AEJMC Conference

New Orleans

(Pre-conference Day is August 4)

<https://www.aejmc.org/aejmc-events/conference>

October 6 | News Engagement Day

<https://www.aejmc.org/aejmc-events/news-engagement-day>



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Building stronger communities together: A recap of 2025 and a sneak peek into 2026

Iona Coman

Texas Tech

Hard to believe it's been already a few months since I stepped into the role of the Head of the Public Relations Division, filled with gratitude for this extraordinary community. Throughout all these years and transitions, this community mentored, taught, inspired, pushed, and welcomed me, always feeling like home. And this gratitude continued through all these months as we all worked together to take stock of what we have built and plan what we can continue to create together in the year ahead, and as this same community of extraordinary leaders and friends helped me get through some pretty hard times.

Looking back over 2025, I am reminded of how deeply our division's strength is rooted in its people. From the preconference, sponsored by our friends at the Arthur W. Page Center for Integrity in Public Communication, that brought together Page Scholars, Contributors from the Plank Center for Leadership, the Commission on Public Relations Education, as well as members of our own PRD DEI Committee into meaningful conversations about the emerging challenges we face as professionals, educators, and scholars, to the thoughtful restructuring of the Edelman and Adams event to bridge the gap between industry and academy and ensure broader accessibility for our full membership, our work continues to demonstrate that we thrive when we center community and ensure that all have access to our shared experiences.

I want to thank last year's leadership. Our outgoing division head, Chris McCollough, guided us with clarity, resolve, kindness and the ever-present "attitude of gratitude" he so often reminded us to practice (one that will continue). He has worked tirelessly to continue the positive changes led by those at the helm before him and help implement structural changes that

will continue to benefit our members for many years. The division is stronger because of his thoughtful stewardship and his commitment to transparency and collaborations. I am happy our paths continue to cross, and I wish him a happy break from PRD or leadership. Still, as it does with great leaders – their service never stops – whether in his position as Director of the School of Communication and Media at Kennesaw State University or in his work for JPRE, he continues to make a positive impact. Our incoming Vice Head, Virginia Harrison, has led the restructuring of the Edelman-Adams Panel into a successful standing-room-only event! If you did not have the chance to attend, you can read about it in her newsletter updates, a few pages or scrolls down. And now in her Vice Head capacity, she is already leading our programming and preconference efforts, rocking it, and I am excited to continue to work alongside her this year!

A big shout-out of course also goes to our 2025-2026 Committee Chairs: April Yue, Jiun-Yi "Jenny" Tsai (Research Committee), Janice Lee (Special Competitions), Patrick Merle (Virtual Conference), Minhee Choi (Teaching and GIFTS competition), Kim Marks Malone (Teaching Committee), Adrienne Wallace, Fay Chen and Geah Pressgrove (PF&R Committee), Tugce Ertem Eray and Ejae Lee (Membership Committee), Jeff Ranta & Chelsea Woods (Newsletter), Erika Schneider (social media), Sun Young Lee and Rosalynn Vasquez (DEI committee), Xi Liu and Feiyun Deng (Grad Student Liaison Committee) and Christen Buckley (Faculty Liaison), Sarah Aghazadeh (Writing Support Group), Juan Liu and Nur Uysal (Kaiser committee), Nur Uysal and Janice Lee (Roschwalb committee).

A message from the Division Head

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A big thank you also goes to the dedicated staff and volunteers who organize all things AEJMC year after year, helping all of us and ensuring a successful conference!

I am equally excited to work this year with an exceptional executive leadership team: our outstanding Vice Head, Virginia Harrison (Clemson University) and our new Vice Head-Elect, Luke Capizzo (Michigan State). They are already working hard on the preliminary elements with me bringing vision, creativity and a deep commitment to serving the PRD. Their leadership in programming, strengthening partnerships and enhancing resources is already helping us imagine new possibilities and areas of growth for the coming year. I already look forward to the year ahead and further to their time at the helm!

I also want to welcome our 2025-2026 Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs: Cen (April) Yue and Janice Lee (Research committee), Adrienne Wallace (Special Competitions), Tugce Ertem Eray and Ruoyu Sun (Teaching/GIFT Competition), Patrick Merle and Elizabeth Ray (Virtual Conference), Carolyn Smith Casertano and Breann Murphy (Teaching committee), Minhee Choi and Christen Buckley (PF&R committee), Ejae Lee and Yan Qu (Membership committee), Queenie Li and Jensen Moore (Social Event committee), Jeffrey Ranta (Newsletter Editor), Jin Chen and Jeong Yang (Social Media committee), Rosalynn Vasquez and Jiun-Yi (Jenny) Tsai (DEI committee), Anli Xiao and Juan Liu (Kaiser committee), Nur Uysal and Janice Lee (Roschwalb committee), Sarah Aghazadeh (Writing Support Group), Jiacheng Huang and Dongya Wang (Graduate Student committee) and Elizabeth Cox and Natalie Tindall (Faculty Liaisons for the Graduate Student committee). Thank you all, and thank you to the volunteers on your committees for the work you are already putting in to make the 2026 AEJMC PRD programming an amazing one!

Finally, as I reflect ahead and how things are starting to shape up, it is clear that the following priorities guide our work:

Strengthening our communities within and beyond the division: Whether we are advancing community-engaged scholarship and class experiences, creating meaningful professional bridges between academia and practice, our discipline flourishes when we embrace community-building as a shared responsibility. This year, we continue to foster that spirit through existing and possibly new mentorship, teaching and research resources and enhanced engagement opportunities for research and practice faculty, graduate students, and early career scholars. Keep an eye out for all the exciting news and opportunities!

Expanding access and transparency in programming: The move to broaden access to the Edelman-Adams panel, transforming it into a fully open session rather than a limited luncheon, marked a significant shift in how we think about accessibility in our programming. We will continue that work in 2025-2026 by exploring ways to extend resources, both virtually and in person, to ensure all our members can meaningfully participate in our offerings and to attract new members to our community. Keep an eye out for news from Luke who is leading this year's Edelman-Adams panel!

Continuing our momentum in content and programming across the Research, Teaching and PF&R pillars: Our committees delivered exceptional work this past year. The PRD has long been a leader within AEJMC in the breadth and quality of its programming and this year we will continue this work throughout our programming virtually and at the upcoming conference. Check out the news from Virginia who led the panel programming efforts this year and has done an amazing job! Also, our pre-conference is continuing to flourish in terms of programming and sponsors! We are so thankful for the Arthur W. Page Center and the Plank Center for

A message from the Division Head

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sponsoring our preconference and working with us on its programming. Thank you, Virginia, for leading these efforts this year!

Honoring our history while embracing the future: We entered our 60th year as one of AEJMC's largest and most active divisions, a testament to the generations of leaders, scholars, educators and practitioners who built the PRD into what it is today! Honoring that legacy means not only remembering those we have lost, such as our dear colleague Dr. Pamela Bourland-Davis, whose contributions to our division and discipline were immeasurable, but also committing ourselves to carrying forward the collaborative and hard-working spirit she and so many others have exemplified.

As I look ahead to the work before us, I do so with excitement and deep appreciation. This division is a reflection of hundreds of volunteers, reviewers, committee members, graduate students, scholars, educators, and practitioners who generously give their time, energy and expertise. My hope for this year is that we continue to cultivate spaces where people feel seen, supported, challenged, and welcomed, and where our collective work strengthens not just our division but also the broader PR discipline and the communities we serve!

Thank you all again for being part of this journey, for the trust you place in this leadership team and for the many ways you help make the PRD a community of communities! I look forward to continuing working alongside all of you this year and beyond.

"Broadening Public Relations Research Through International Perspectives" panel

Please join the PRD DEI Committee for a virtual panel discussion on how international perspectives contribute to the theoretical and professional development of public relations. The discussion will also address what it means to conduct, publish, and teach PR research with an international perspective, including how to navigate different academic traditions, audiences, and expectations.

When: April 15, 2026 (12:00–1:00 p.m., ET)

Register today!: <https://oklahoma.zoom.us/join/register/qiasoYJgSHCjruwe4w9z-w#/registration> (A Zoom link will be sent to those who have signed up.)

Panelists:

Arunima Krishna, Ph.D., Boston University

James Ndone, Ph.D., Coastal Carolina University

Pablo Miño, Ph.D., Universidad de los Andes

Ran Ju, Ph.D., Mount Royal University

Moderator: Chuqing Dong, Ph.D., Michigan State University

Questions can be directed to Jenny Tsai (jiunyi.tsai-1@ou.edu, DEI Committee Chair).



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From the PF&R Committee: Call for 2026 Semester of Service

By **Jin Chen**, Virginia Commonwealth

The PF&R committee seeks community-engaged, service-learning, pedagogical experiences for our 2026 Spring Semester of Service showcase.

Following the Spring Semester of Service (SOS) tradition for PRD, we will highlight members' projects through blog and social media posts that demonstrate best practices aligned with the five pillars of PF&R:

- Pillar 1: Free Expression
- Pillar 2: Ethics
- Pillar 3: Media Criticism and Accountability
- Pillar 4: Diversity and Inclusion
- Pillar 5: Public Service

We honor the 2026 Spring Semester of Service between the observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Monday, January 19, 2026) and National Volunteer Week (April 19-25, 2026).

As a hat tip to this period of time centered around community engagement, we welcome our members to share their experience of any type of service-learning during the Spring semester. These activities may include:

- Your pedagogical approach to service learning in different teaching modalities (e.g., in-person, hybrid, hyflex, remote)
- Assignments related to service learning and community engagement
- Student learning experience and outcomes (e.g., work products, client/community partner feedback)
- Challenges and lessons learned
- Best practices for service and community-engaged learning

- Innovative approaches, new ideas, adapting to the uncertain and volatile times, and more

We welcome you to share your experiences and stories with us! If you'd like to be included in our showcase, please share your work via this form (<https://forms.gle/WsF7yTHQuwU6ekni8>) OR nominate a colleague or friend (on the form), and a member of the PF&R committee will work with you to bring your SOS project to the masses!

We will share these stories with our PRD members to support, uplift, and empower one another.

Dr. Adrienne Wallace renewed as *JPRE* Editor



The Public Relations Division has voted overwhelmingly to approve the selection committee's recommendation to renew Dr. Adrienne A. Wallace for a second term as Editor of the Journal of Public Relations Education (JPRE).

The strong endorsement reflects Dr. Wallace's outstanding leadership, the exceptional work of the Editorial team, and the significant progress achieved during the past term.

Congratulations to Dr. Wallace on this continued service, and we look forward to the impact of the upcoming term.

What's on my coffee table

By Jeffrey Ranta, Coastal Carolina

Public Relations in Times of Dissensus Narratives, Artifacts and the Challenges of Meaning.



Hello colleagues,

This installment of What's on My Coffee Table is a combination book review and shout out.

Public Relations in Times of Dissensus Narratives, Artifacts and the Challenges of Meaning (2026) eds. Saima Kazmi, Joshua Foust & Burtron St. John III (Bloomsbury Press) is a selection of 13 chapters divided into three sections. Part One addresses Non-Profit, Pedagogy, and Civic Engagement; Part Two Corporate and Mediated Dissent; Part Three Cultural, Global, and Historical Perspectives. All sections and associated chapters offer a variety of new changes and challenges in the teaching and practice of public relations.

What is dissensus and why is it important?

The thesis and justification for this book is best stated in the introduction from the editors:

“...public relations has long privileged consensus as both an ethical aspiration and a strategic goal. But in a postmodern, fragmented public sphere, this orientation appears to be out of step. The chapters in this volume respond to that challenge by showing how public relations in practice and theory has reconfigured to address dissensus not as a failure that needs to be managed rather as a defining condition of contemporary communication.” (pg. 8).

Some chapters titles in this 296 page compilation include.

Harmonizing Dissensus: An Exploration of Public Relations strategies in Nonprofit Organizations Advancing Racial Equality; Troll of Duty: Masculinity,

Gaming, and Queer Public Relations; Corporate Social Advocacy in Divided Societies: Navigating Ethical Quandaries and Legitimacy Challenges; Transparency and Trust in Times of Dissensus: What Chileans Mean When They Demand Organizational Transparency as a Trustworthiness Attribute and Public Diplomacy Practices through the Cultural-Economic Model of Public Relations.

My Takeaway

If you are a gray-haired practitioner like me, you can remember when public relations was all about building agreement and community. But as this text points out, and as many authors allude to in their chapters, the public relations practice in its many occupations and iterations, whether practitioner, educator, researcher or counselor has fragmented or splintered in a way that seems difficult to re-assemble.

The ala-carte news consumption and validation that is available to nearly everyone right now is a sea change that must be addressed if we are to be successful in our goals as public relations practitioners to faithfully represent divergent and wide spread ideas truthfully and ethically.

Another way to address this is fundamentally, what was once one communicating to many in the mass communications model has transitioned to one to one many times with the personalization and accommodation we all demand. The challenge is now and will remain, if we each can get exactly what we want from our media usage, and form our own group of those who like what we have to say, why would we want to listen to anyone else's opinion or ideas that might question our conclusions or our understanding?

As for my observation of this volume, I think it is an excellent first foray into exploring these questions and identifying the dissensus phenomenon in real time. I am confident this discussion will be an area for additional scholarship, training and implementation.

What's on my coffee table

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My other takeaway

The other favorite part of this book for me, and why many of my fellow PRD members should care, is this book is also a celebration of the achievements of many of us in this division. The authorship and the reference

pages in this text are replete with familiar names of friends and colleagues and I am very pleased to know that so many of us are investigating this phenomena from so many different angles.

Congratulations to all of those who contributed to Public Relations in Times of Dissensus.

2026 Inez Kaiser Graduate Students of Color Award call

Nominations for the Inez Kaiser Graduate Students of Color Awards are being accepted by the AEJMC Public Relations Division (PRD) and the Mass Communication and Society Division (MCSD) through May 31, 2026. The award honors Inez Kaiser, the first African-American woman to belong to PRSA and to head a public relations agency with national clients. Inez Kaiser & Associates was the first African-American female-owned PR agency with national clients. The Kaiser Awards are co-sponsored by PRD and MCSD.

The total amount of each award is \$1,000. Two award recipients will receive funding intended to cover one-year memberships to AEJMC and the PRD or MCSD with additional funding that could be used toward research costs or conference travel (such as AEJMC Midwinter, AEJMC SE Colloquium, or the 2025 Annual Conference). The expectation is that the awardee will attend one of these conferences; the conference registration fee will be waived. If interested, they may also take advantage of the PRD mentorship program and be assigned a faculty mentor.

Eligible students of color must be enrolled in graduate study in a communication, mass communication, or public relations program and intend to pursue a career as a public relations/mass communication educator. Students who are finishing their degrees in 2026 are also eligible (including those who have already

defended or ABD students). The awards seek to encourage these students' academic career aspirations, and, in turn, their involvement broadens the diversity within the PRD and MCSD, AEJMC, and the mass communication and public relations professions.

Preference will be given to applicants who are:

- Doctoral students who have already defended or are ABD
- Students of minority and emerging minority status
- Students presenting a paper at the AEJMC conference

Nomination process:

- Self-nominations by eligible graduate students or nominations by PRD/MCSD/AEJMC members on behalf of eligible graduate students are accepted via the online application form

Required:

- Completion of online nomination and application form: <https://forms.gle/wgMSh5btofq21Tej9>

Deadline:

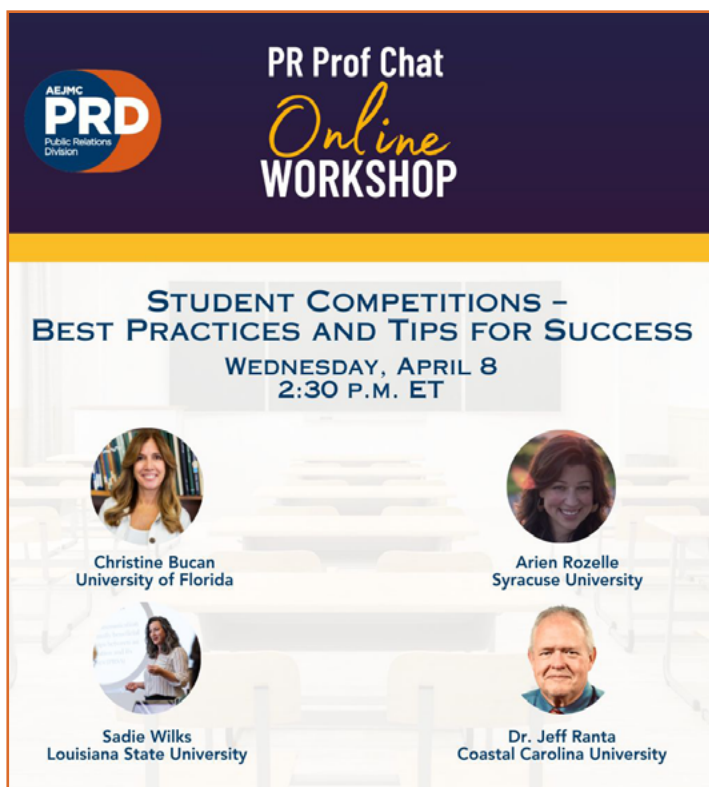
The deadline for nominations and materials is May 31.

Please contact Inez Kaiser Awards committee chairs Anli Xiao axiao@mailbox.sc.edu and Juan Liu juanliu@towson.edu more information or questions.

PR prof chat: Student competitions - best practices and tips for success

Please join the AEJMC PRD Teaching Division in a panel discussion of student competitions and what they can do for the student experience, April 8, 2:30 ET.

The registration URL is <https://arizona.zoom.us/j/91234567890>



For the next *PR Update* issue, please send any committee-related information you'd like included to Jeff Ranta, jranta@coastal.edu

Edelman-Adams Panel 2025 conference recap

By Virginia Harrison, Clemson

Thank you all for making the Edelman-Adams Panel at the 2025 Conference in San Francisco a success!

The panel session on Friday afternoon was standing-room-only event, despite being booked against the association's presidential panel. Edelman's representative Simon Paterson, MBE, US Head of Counter Disinformation, discussed tactics for combating misinformation with his clients.

Our division's representatives, Yan Jin, Ph.D., C. Richard Yarbrough Professor in Crisis Communication Leadership and Professor of Public Relations, University of Georgia, and Regina Luttrell, Ph.D., Senior Associate Dean and Associate Professor of Public Relations, Syracuse University, provided examples of cutting-edge academic work. Dr. Jin's described a new crisis readiness model while Dr. Luttrell explained the growing threat of misinformation from synthetic media.

Our co-sponsor, the Media Ethics Division, was represented by Chad Painter, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Communication, University of Dayton. He explained the ethics of misinformation especially when directed at a community of people.

Together, this event helped to uphold the mission of the Edelman-PRD partnership by bridging the gap of academia and practice through the panelists' contributions and your attendance. Thank you!

This year's Edelman-Adams panel planning for the 2026 Conference in New Orleans will be led by Vice Head Elect, Luke Capizzo, Ph.D., APR (Michigan State University). You can email him at capizzol@msu.edu.

Update on programming for 2026 conference

By Virginia Harrison, Clemson

Planning for the division's programming at the 2026 Conference in New Orleans is well underway! We wanted to provide a brief overview of association-wide changes for the 2026 conference as we move forward.

The association has decreased programming slots for each division and interest group this year. PRD will have only 10 programming slots this year, down from the usual 12. We are committed to co-sponsoring 6 programming panels again this year, as in the past. The Executive Committee will be working closely with the division's Research Committee to ensure we maintain our standard 50% acceptance rate for research paper presentations.

Additionally, the concluded panel programming process and the upcoming paper competition are moving to the Community platform this year.

The preliminary conference schedule has been released, and accepted panels are working hard to confirm speakers for the program. This year's panels

include six topics across teaching, PF&R, research, and the Edelman-Adams Panel. More details to follow.

PRD Preconference planning is off and running. We thank the Arthur W. Page Center and the Plank Center for sponsoring our preconference and hosting panels. Additionally, we will feature a panel with [The Descendants Project](#), a nonprofit dedicated to "healing and flourishing" the Black community in the Louisiana river parishes near New Orleans. They will be sharing stories from their successful community activism blocking the Wallace Grain Elevator development. Many thanks to Dr. Michelle Keller for making this connection. More details to follow as the full preconference is planned out.

Stay tuned to the listserv and social media for updates on programming and the preconference.

For any questions related to programming for the 2026 conference, please email Virginia Harrison, PRD Vice Head, at vsharri@clemson.edu.

AEJMC 109th annual conference overview

Jazz & Jambalaya: Nurturing Harmony and Health in Higher Education

AEJMC will host its 109th Annual Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana, from August 5–8, 2026.

Paper Competition

- Submissions are now invited for the 2026 AEJMC Conference Paper Competition.
- All peer-reviewed research must be submitted through the Online Paper Submission Portal.
- Submission Deadline: April 1, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. CDT

Registration & Membership

- Early Registration Begins: April 22, 2026
- General Registration Begins: July 16, 2026
- Conference attendees must be AEJMC members.
- Registration is available through the AEJMC member portal.

AEJMC PR Division: 2026 call for papers

The Public Relations Division invites submissions of original papers that advance the theory, practice, and pedagogy of public relations. The division encourages submissions that reflect a variety of theoretical and practical perspectives relevant to public relations, as well as a diversity of methodological approaches. Submitters should carefully review the specific instructions for the Public Relations Division as well as the general requirements contained in the AEJMC Uniform Paper Call.

New Submission Site: <https://www.aejmc.org/aejmc-events/conference/paper-competition>

Submission Categories: A paper may be submitted in one of the following PRD research categories: (1) open research, (2) student research, or (3) scholarship of teaching, (4) GIFTs.

The GIFT competition will run with the same submission system and deadline (11:59 p.m. Central Daylight Time, April 1, 2026) as the other categories. [Complete information on the GIFT competition is available here.](#)

Top Research, Teaching, and Student

Papers: Monetary awards are given for the top three papers in each of the categories. Thanks to a generous gift from Dennis Wilcox, Professor Emeritus, San José State University, top papers in open research and scholarship of teaching categories will be awarded: \$750 for the top paper, \$500 for the second-place paper, and \$250 for the third-place paper. Top papers will receive priority processing by the Journal of Public Relations Research, and top teaching papers will receive priority processing by the Journal of Public Relations Education, provided they are submitted by December 31, 2026. Thanks to the generous support of The Plank Center for Leadership in Public Relations at the University of Alabama, the first author of each of the top three student research papers will receive \$300, \$200, and \$100, respectively. In cases where a category does not have enough qualified submissions, the Public Relations Division

reserves the right to not award any or all of the three places in that category.

Special Research Award Categories:

Doug Newsom Award

The Doug Newsom Award created in honor of Doug Newsom, Professor Emeritus, Texas Christian University, will again be given in 2026. The award in the amount of \$250 is for the top paper that fits the theme of global ethics and diversity. Papers must follow the rules of the AEJMC Public Relations Division call for papers. A special Doug Newsom Award Committee will evaluate the papers on the basis of the award's theme and recommend a nominee to the research committee for recognition.

Museum of Public Relations History Award

The Museum of Public Relations is also awarding \$250 for the best paper about the role of public relations in history. The historical figures do not need to self-identify as public relations people and can include social and political movement leaders. People who are not typically cited in public relations textbooks are of particular interest. Papers must follow the rules of the AEJMC Public Relations Division call for papers. A special Public Relations History Award Committee will evaluate the papers on the basis of the award's theme and recommend a nominee to the research committee for recognition.

DEI & Public Relations Award

The Top Paper on DEI & Public Relations will also be awarded in 2026. The winning paper will earn \$250. Paper submissions must follow the general rules of the AEJMC Public Relations Division call for papers. The PRD Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) committee will evaluate the papers on the basis of the award's theme including (but not limited to) scholarship around race, gender, LGBTQ rights, and accessibility. The committee will recommend a nominee to the research committee for recognition.

AEJMC PR Division: 2026 call for papers

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Those who wish to compete for the Doug Newsom, Public Relations History, or DEI & Public Relations awards should submit papers using the appropriate award submission link in the All-Academic system. Authors must indicate the submission categories (i.e., teaching, open, or student) and then clearly label their papers for consideration of the award for which they wish to compete. Papers not selected for the awards will still be considered for acceptance in the categories (i.e., scholarship of teaching, open research, or student research) to which they are submitted.

In cases where an award competition does not have enough qualified submissions, the Public Relations Division reserves the right to not award any paper in that competition.

Submission Limitations: Each author or co-author may submit a maximum of two papers in total—whether full papers or works in progress—across all three PRD categories (Teaching, Open, and Student), including award submissions. If it is found that one person is author and/or co-author of more than two submissions across the three PRD categories, all submissions beyond the second submission will be excluded from consideration. ***GIFT submissions are considered separate and not included in this limitation.***

A Paper May NOT be Under Review: (1) simultaneously with more than one of the PRD categories, (2) simultaneously with more than one division within AEJMC, (3) simultaneously with the AEJMC conference and any other conference, or (4) simultaneously with the AEJMC conference and any potential publication, including refereed journals, book chapters, etc.

Authorship: When submitting co-authored papers, permission to submit the paper should be sought and obtained from all authors on the paper. Paper authorship cannot be added, deleted, or changed after submission of the paper.

Author Identification: All authors and co-authors, their institutional affiliations and contact information must be included WHEN REGISTERING on the online system. If there are three co-authors, for example, information about all three must be included in the registration. Student papers must be authored or co-authored by students ONLY (no faculty co-authors), and all student papers must have the word “STUDENT” on the title page and in the running head. Author-identifying information MUST NOT appear anywhere in the attached paper file. Identifying information includes (1) listing of authors’ names and/or affiliations, (2) references to authors’ previous work in a way that reveals authorship of the current work, and (3) links to authors’ websites, e-mail addresses, or social media accounts. Inclusion of identifying information will result in automatic disqualification of the paper. It is the responsibility of the paper author(s) to verify that no identifying information is contained in the paper text or in the document file properties. Please follow the directions for removing your identifying information from the properties. This will need to be done EACH time you submit your paper to All-Academic. All paper submitters are strongly encouraged to submit at least a day or two before the deadline so they can check to make sure that the uploaded document does not contain any self-identifying information in its properties, as can happen sometimes, mysteriously, via “save as pdf” or as a result of some other technical issues. An early submission will allow all submitters to fully check submissions as they are entered into the system so that a resubmission prior to the deadline is possible.

Research paper content: Any recognized research method and citation style may be used. Papers should include appropriate literature reviews, methodology, findings, and discussion. Papers should test, refine or expand public relations theory or practice; critically review issues relevant to public relations theory and research; or explore methods of effective public relations practice. Scholarship of teaching papers

AEJMC PR Division: 2026 call for papers

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should test, refine or expand principles or practices associated with public relations pedagogy using rigorous research methods. GIFT submissions should review the GIFT-specific paper call for content guidelines.

Paper Formatting (General): All papers (full papers and research-in-progress) must contain continuous page numbers; if multiple files are merged for the paper, then the author must ensure that the page numbers are continuous and do not repeat or start over from page 1. Because of past conversion issues with the All-Academic system that resulted in papers being longer than the established requirement, all papers must be submitted in PDF format. For those using the newest version of Microsoft Word, you can save your paper as a PDF file using the “Save As” function. For those not using this version, you may use a free web service, such as www.freepdfconvert.com. Failure to follow these formatting guidelines will result in an automatic disqualification of the paper.

Paper Formatting (Full Paper): A full paper cannot exceed 25 pages EXCLUDING abstract, references, figures and tables. Tables and figures will be counted toward the page limit unless placed at the end of the paper. Papers must be typed in a 12-point font, using Times New Roman, Times, or Arial font. Paper text must be formatted with double line spacing with 1-inch margins on all sides of the document; references may be single spaced, with a double space between citation entries. Papers over the page limit will be disqualified.

Paper Formatting (Research-in-Progress):

****The Research in Progress category replaces the former Extended Abstracts category. Please read instructions carefully.****

The Public Relations Division will accept research-in-progress submissions for the 2026 conference.

This category is intended for projects that are in progress but not yet complete. Submissions should be developed enough to allow for meaningful peer feedback, but not substantially finished or under review elsewhere. Research-in-progress will be reviewed and scored using evaluation criteria specific to this category and not the same as those used for full papers. To preserve the value of fully developed research papers, research in progress will not be eligible for division awards.

Each submission must include a 75-word abstract and a proposal of 1,000–1,500 words (PDF preferred; Word accepted). The proposal should include **(1) purpose and significance of the study, (2) theoretical framework or literature grounding, (3) research questions or hypotheses, (4) methodology, (5) expected contributions to the field, (6) preliminary findings (if any), and (7) areas where feedback is desired.** References, tables, and figures are excluded from the word count. In the AEJMC Submission Portal, select “Research in Progress.” Clearly include “Research in Progress: [Your Paper Title]” on both the title page and in the submission form.

Presentation Requirement: At least one author of an accepted faculty paper must attend the conference to present the paper. If student authors cannot be present, they must make arrangements for the paper to be presented by someone else. Failure to present will result in revocation of acceptance. Authors of accepted papers are required to forward papers to discussants and moderators prior to the conference. Presentations at AEJMC conference may be disseminated via social media; presenters may opt out of social media dissemination by requesting so at the time of presentation.

Questions? Please contact the research committee chair, April Yue, Boston University, april.yue@bu.edu

2026 Senior and Emerging Scholar Grants announced

Information provided by AEJMC

Congratulations to the six AEJMC members who have been awarded 2026 Senior and Emerging Scholar Grants! Two proposed Senior Scholar Projects were awarded grants, and two proposed Emerging Scholar Projects were awarded grants.

Senior Scholar Grants were awarded to Sungwon Chung, Ball State, and Sun Young Lee, Maryland, for their project, “AI Disclosure in Journalism: How Disclosure Wording and Editorial Oversight Influence Trust and Engagement,” and to Queenie Li, Miami, and Nick Carcioppolo, Miami, for their project, “Examining Online Discourse on Childhood Vaccination Amid Florida’s Removal of Mandates.” Chung and Lee are receiving a grant of \$4,989, and Li and Carcioppolo are receiving a grant of \$4,600. Up to \$5,000 can be awarded for each Senior Scholar Grant.

Emerging Scholar Grants were awarded to Chalise Macklin, Memphis, for her project, “From Classroom to Newsroom: University of Memphis–Marion Dual Enrollment Bridge Program,” and to Won-Ki Moon, Florida, for his project, “Smarter or Just More Confident? Investigating Generative AI’s Impact on Fact-Checking, the Illusion of Expertise, and Interventions for Digital Literacy.” Macklin is receiving a grant of \$3,500, and Moon is also receiving a grant of \$3,500. Up to \$3,500 can be awarded for each Emerging Scholar Grant.

Senior Scholar Projects

Sungwon Chung, Ball State, and Sun Young Lee, Maryland

“AI Disclosure in Journalism: How Disclosure Wording and Editorial Oversight Influence Trust and Engagement”



Graphic by AEJMC

Chung (Ph.D., Texas Tech University) is an associate professor in the School of Journalism and Strategic Communication at Ball State University. responses.

Lee (Ph.D., University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill) is an associate professor in the Department of Communication at the University of Maryland–College Park.

Queenie Li, Miami, and Nick Carcioppolo, Miami

“Examining Online Discourse on Childhood Vaccination Amid Florida’s Removal of Mandates”

Li (Ph.D., University of South Carolina) is an associate professor in the Department of Communication Studies at the University of Miami.

Carcioppolo (Ph.D., Purdue University) is an associate professor in the Department of Communication Studies at the University of Miami.

2026 Senior and Emerging Scholar Grants announced

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Emerging Scholar Projects

Chalise Macklin, Memphis

“From Classroom to Newsroom: University of Memphis–Marion Dual Enrollment Bridge Program”

Macklin (Ph.D., University of Alabama) is an assistant professor of journalism at the University of Memphis.

Won-Ki Moon, Florida

“Smarter or Just More Confident? Investigating Generative AI’s Impact on Fact-Checking, the Illusion of Expertise, and Interventions for Digital Literacy”

Moon (Ph.D., University of Texas at Austin) is an assistant professor in the Department of Advertising at the University of Florida.

The call for 2026 Senior and Emerging Scholar Grant applications was issued in July of 2025; applications were due to AEJMC by Oct. 1, 2025, followed by reviewers evaluating and scoring the proposals. Final results were determined in January.

The Senior Scholar Grants Program supports AEJMC researchers in a wide area of study and seeks to support senior (typically tenured) scholars engaged in extended research projects. The Emerging Scholar Grants Program is designed to develop and nurture AEJMC’s most promising emerging scholars (most likely at the assistant professor level) by providing funding for research or teaching projects. Determining factors in the selection process for both programs are (1) innovative approach and contribution of the topic to theory development; (2) quality of the background research and methodology proposed; (3) value of the program to the applicant(s) and school(s); and (4) proposed budget and use of funds.

The call for applications for the next (2027) Senior and Emerging Scholar Grants programs will be issued in July.



Graphic by AEJMC



Graphic by AEJMC

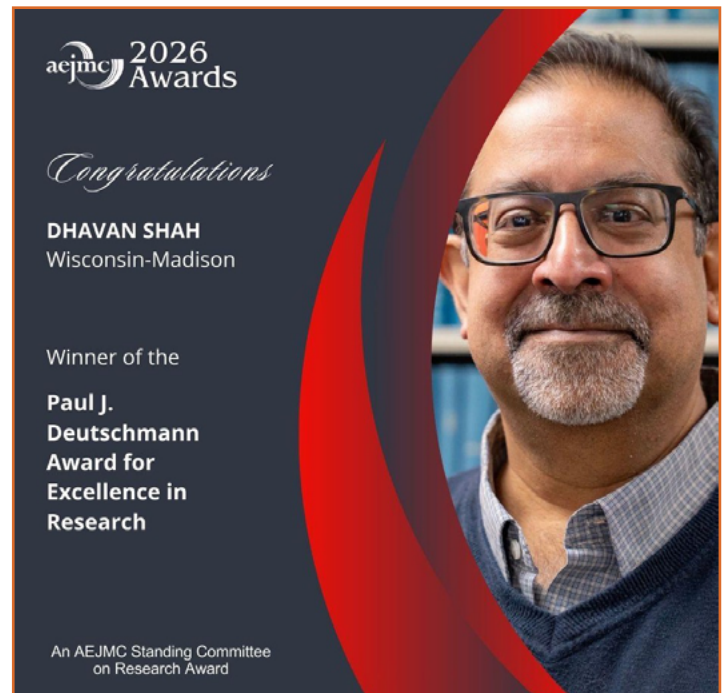
Shah receives AEJMC 2026 Paul J. Deutschmann Award for Excellence in Research

Information provided by AEJMC

Dhavan Shah, Wisconsin-Madison, has been selected as the recipient of the AEJMC 2026 Paul J. Deutschmann Award for Excellence in Research.

Shah's nominators described him as an unparalleled researcher who has established one of the most prolific and influential research records among contemporary communication scholars. They emphasized that his work has shaped the discipline in enduring ways—not only through theoretical and methodological advancements but also through his substantial contributions to the institutions he serves.

Dhavan Shah is the Jack M. McLeod Professor of Communication Research and Louis A. and Mary E. Maier-Bascom Chair in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he is Director of the Mass Communication Research Center and Research Director of the Center for Communication and Civic Renewal. His intersecting lines of research focus on (1) the influence of message framing and cueing on social judgments and behaviors, (2) the communication dynamics that drive civic and political participation, and (3) the role of digital therapeutics in chronic disease management. This work has generated six coauthored and coedited books, 200 articles and chapters, and grants totaling over \$66 million from private foundations, academic entities, and federal governments. With affiliated appointments in Industrial and Systems Engineering, Marketing, and Political Science, he combines conventional



Graphic by AEJMC

and computational social science to study politics and public health and translate research insights into scalable systems and solutions. He earned his Ph.D. in Mass Communication with a minor in Political Psychology from the University of Minnesota in 1999.

This prestigious award will be presented at the annual conference to be held in New Orleans, La., August 5-8 this year. The award presentation will be made at the Keynote session on Wednesday, August 5, from 5:15 p.m. to 6:45 p.m., and the Deutschmann Award session is scheduled on the same day from 3:30 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Share your achievements! Examples may include publications or books, innovative teaching or instruction you have piloted, unique or exceptional service, presentations, or other prestigious accomplishments.

Please email Jeffrey Ranta (jranta@coastal.edu) with your name, position or title, and organization; a description of what you did (including titles in APA style, relevant dates, and other details); your contact information; and, if you wish, a photo or examples of your work.

Institute for Diverse Leadership in Journalism and Communication call for applications

Information provided by AEJMC

Deadline: April 15, 2026

Background: The purpose of the Institute for Diverse Leadership in Journalism and Communication is to increase diversity in administrative and other senior-level positions in journalism and communication education.

The Institute's objective is to identify, recruit, mentor, and train future leaders and administrators. The Institute is cosponsored by the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) and the Association of Schools of Journalism and Mass Communication (ASJMC).

The Institute for Diverse Leadership in Journalism and Communication seeks applicants from historically marginalized and underrepresented groups as the program is dedicated to increasing the diversity of chairs, deans, directors, and endowed chairs in journalism and communication education. Applicants **MUST BE** current AEJMC members.

Applicants must be associate or full professors interested in administration and/or journalism and communication practitioners who have moved into the academy and have a minimum of three full-time years in an academic setting.

The IDL Jennifer McGill Fellows will participate in Institute activities while continuing to work at their home campuses.

The Institute program involves four group sessions during the fellowship year, two of which will happen during AEJMC conferences.



Fellows and their home institutions are expected to cover costs associated with travel to those two AEJMC annual conferences, which most members normally attend.

Travel for the other components below will be funded by the Institute.

Components: There are three key components of the Institute:

- **Workshop Sessions** — Mandatory workshops for fellows will be held at the AEJMC 2026 New Orleans Conference, the 2027 IDL Winter Workshop, the 2027 ASJMC Conference/ ACEJMC Committee Meeting, and the AEJMC 2027 Chicago Conference. Workshops will cover a variety of administrative issues, including fundraising, leadership styles and accreditation.
- **Mentor Program** — The Institute will match each fellow with a current administrative mentor. The mentoring relationship consists of monthly contact via telephone or email, and a week-long visit to the mentor's campus for a first-hand look at administrative duties at a journalism/ communication program.

Institute for Diverse Leadership in Journalism and Communication Call for Applications

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- Networking — Institute fellows are introduced to current administrators during social and programming sessions at their workshops.

Mentors introduce fellows to other administrators to help the fellows begin to establish networks of resources.

Application Process: AEJMC expects the selection process to be competitive.

Applications for the 2026/27 year of the Institute should include ONE PDF file that includes the following parts:

Part I. An “Institute Application” that answers the following questions:

1. How has your lived experience and/or background informed your leadership?
2. Why would this program be valuable to you now — at this stage of your career?
3. What skills and past leadership experience do you have?
4. Why would you like to become an administrator or have a leadership position in higher education?
5. As a leader, how would you foster a workplace culture that values pluralism, belonging, and equal opportunities for all?
6. What would you like to learn from the program if you were selected?
7. What do you see as the most pressing issue for JC administrators today, and what two ideas do you have that would help?

Part II. A vita, maximum of five pages. Vita should include:

- current position, rank and number of years of teaching;
- summary of professional experience;
- leadership positions and significant service contributions to department, university, AEJMC and other academic associations;
- maximum listing of 10 publications, presentations and awards (total of 10 for all three).

Part III. Two letters of recommendation. One letter should be from your immediate chair or dean, and one should come from another person familiar with your work. The letter of nomination from the immediate chair or dean must indicate the institution will provide funding for the candidate to attend the two required AEJMC annual conferences if the person is selected for the program.

The complete packet should be converted to a PDF and emailed to: lillian@aejmc.org.

The file should be called: AEJMC_Institute_(your last name).

All application materials should be received by 5 p.m. Eastern time on Wednesday, April 15.

Only complete applications will be considered.

The selection process is very competitive. Up to eight fellows will be selected for the 2026 - 2027 class. Notifications will go out mid-May.

Direct questions to Lillian Coleman at lillian@aejmc.org, or Amanda Caldwell at amanda@aejmc.org. Type “Institute Inquiry” in subject line.

SPECIAL THANKS to Dennis Wilcox and his Top Paper Awards for the PRD

Wilcox's annual contributions are consistently one of the strongest provided in support of the Public Relations Division at AEJMC! The top three papers in the open research and teaching category currently receive first, second, and third awards of \$1,000, \$750, and \$500.

Thank you Dennis for your generous and consistent support of the AEJMC PRD in supporting our research agenda.

AEJMC awards and calls

Information provided by AEJMC

Professional Freedom & Responsibility Committee Awards

AEJMC Equity & Diversity Award

NOW ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS JANUARY 15, 2026 — APRIL 15, 2026

The AEJMC Equity & Diversity Award recognizes journalism and mass communication academic units that are working toward, and have attained measurable success, in increasing equity and diversity among their faculty, staff and students. The unit must display progress and innovation in racial, gender, and ethnic equality and diversity during the previous three years. [Application deadline: April 15, 2026.](#)

Dorothy Bowles Award for Outstanding Public Service

ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS DECEMBER 1, 2026 — MARCH 1, 2027

The Dorothy Bowles Award for Outstanding Public Service recognizes an AEJMC member who has a sustained and significant public-service record that has helped build bridges between academics and professionals in mass communications, either nationally or locally, and been actively engaged within the association.

Standing Committee on Research Awards

Eleanor Blum Distinguished Service to Research Award

ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS OCTOBER 1, 2026 — DECEMBER 15, 2026

The Blum Research Award was created to recognize people who have devoted substantial parts of their careers to promoting research in mass communication. It is named in honor of its first recipient, the late Eleanor Blum, a long time communications librarian at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign.

AEJMC-Knudson Latin America Prize

ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS OCTOBER 1, 2026 — JANUARY 15, 2027

This is an annual award given to a book or project concerning Latin America or coverage of issues in Latin America. Submitted works must make an original contribution to improve knowledge about Latin America to U.S. students, journalists or the public. This award was endowed by the late Jerry Knudson, an emeritus professor at Temple University. Knudson was a long-time AEJMC member whose research and publications focused on Latin America.

AEJMC awards and calls

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Nafziger-White-Salwen Dissertation Award

ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS SEPTEMBER 1, 2026
— OCTOBER 15, 2026

The award recognizes excellence in Ph.D. dissertation research that demonstrates potentially significant impact and importance in the field of journalism and communication research and includes a monetary prize. The award is named for Ralph O. Nafziger and David Manning White, authors of *Introduction to Mass Communication Research*, and Michael Salwen, co-author of *An Integrated Approach to Communication Theory and Research*.

Paul J. Deutschmann Award for Excellence in Research

ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS OCTOBER 1, 2026 —
DECEMBER 15, 2026

The Paul J. Deutschmann Award for Excellence in Research recognizes a body of significant research over the course of an individual's career. The award is named in honor of Paul J. Deutschmann, who developed the College of Communication Arts at Michigan State University. It serves as the AEJMC Research Award, recognizing the top scholars in the association who have made a major impact on the research of the field during their career. The Deutschmann Award is based on demonstrable influence on the field and is therefore not necessarily awarded every year.

Tankard Book Award

ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS OCTOBER 1, 2026 —
JANUARY 15, 2027

This award recognizes the most outstanding book in the field of journalism and communication. It also honors authors whose work embodies excellence in research, writing and creativity. First presented in 2007, the award is named in honor of Dr. James

Tankard, Jr., posthumous recipient of AEJMC's 2006 Eleanor Blum Distinguished Service to Research Award, former editor of *Journalism Monographs* and a longtime University of Texas at Austin journalism professor.

Lillian Lodge Kopenhagen Outstanding Early-Career Woman Scholar Award

NOW ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS DECEMBER 1,
2025 — APRIL 15, 2026

A Lillian Lodge Kopenhagen Center for the Advancement of Women in Communication at Florida International University and AEJMC Commission on the Status of Women Award

Sponsored by the Lillian Lodge Kopenhagen Center for the Advancement of Women in Communication at Florida International University and the AEJMC Commission on the Status of Women, this award honors early-career women faculty researchers and encourage them as they pursue their research agendas and potential for future scholarship in the academy. [Nomination deadline is April 15, 2026.](#) (This award is administered by AEJMC.)

Lionel C. Barrow Jr. Award for Distinguished Achievement in Diversity Research and Education

ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS JANUARY 15, 2026
— MAY 1, 2026

An AEJMC Minorities and Communication Division and AEJMC Commission on the Status of Minorities Award

The award recognizes outstanding individual accomplishment and leadership in diversity efforts for underrepresented groups by race and ethnicity, in journalism and mass communication.

AEJMC awards and calls

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The Gene Burd Award for Research in Urban Journalism Studies

ACCEPTING PROPOSALS OCTOBER 1, 2026 — NOVEMBER 15, 2026

An Urban Communication Foundation and AEJMC Award

The purpose of this annual grant is to stimulate research that explains, enlightens, inspires, and improves the practice of journalism and communication in order to advance our understanding of journalism in urban environments. It may be awarded to faculty, graduate students, or a team of both.

The Gene Burd Urban Journalism Award

NOW ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FEBRUARY 15, 2026 — APRIL 30, 2026

An Urban Communication Foundation and AEJMC Award

This This \$5,000 award recognizes high-quality urban reporting or critical analysis relevant to city problems, programs, policies, and public priorities in urban life and culture. The award is for a journalist with a distinguished record of work in urban journalism. [The deadline for nominations is April 30.](#)

Journalism & Mass Communication Administrator of the Year Award

ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS JULY 1, 2026 — OCTOBER 15, 2026

A Scripps Howard Fund and AEJMC Award

Full-time administrator of a journalism, mass communication or communication program who, over a period of years, has consistently demonstrated an environment of leadership excellence by ongoing contributions to the improvement of learning and teaching. Open to accredited and non-accredited schools.

Journalism Teacher of the Year Award

ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS JULY 1, 2026 — OCTOBER 15, 2026

A Scripps Howard Fund and AEJMC Award

This call is open to full-time faculty members or teaching journalism who, over a period of years, has consistently demonstrated an environment of excellence by ongoing contributions to the improvement of student learning. Open to nominees who teach students how to gather, assess, create, and present news, information and commentary via print and electronic media. Nominees may be from accredited or non-accredited schools but must consistently teach primarily journalism courses.

The Research Grant to Support Innovative News Audience & News Engagement Studies

NOW ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS DECEMBER 1, 2025 — MAY 1, 2026

An AEJMC and News Engagement Day Award

The Research Grant to Support Innovative News Audience & News Engagement Studies encourages the exploration of the news audience and news engagement in new ways to answer never before asked theoretical and real-world questions relevant to today's times and the future. The winning proposal receives \$3,000. [Proposals Due: May 1, 2026.](#) *This research grant replaces the News Audience Research Paper Award.*

AEJMC Programs

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

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FEBRUARY 15, 2026 — APRIL 15, 2026

The purpose of the Institute for Diverse Leadership in Journalism and Communication is to increase diversity in administrative and other senior-level positions

AEJMC awards and calls

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in journalism and communication education. The Institute's objective is to identify, recruit, mentor, and train future leaders and administrators. The Institute is co-sponsored by the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) and the Association of Schools of Journalism and Mass Communication (ASJMC). [Application deadline: April 15, 2026.](#)

AEJMC Emerging Scholar Grants

ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS JULY 1, 2026 — OCTOBER 1, 2026

The AEJMC Emerging Scholars Program award research and teaching grants to emerging scholars to fund research or teaching proposals to encourage innovative and timely projects in journalism and mass communication. Applicants must be current AEJMC faculty members.

AEJMC Senior Scholar Grants

ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS JULY 1, 2026 — OCTOBER 1, 2026

The AEJMC Senior Scholars Program awards grants to senior (typically tenured) scholars to fund innovative and timely research projects in journalism and mass communication. Applicants must be AEJMC members.

Bonus Calls

2026-2027 AEJMC-MCSD Diversity and Inclusion Career Development Fellowship for Graduate Students

[NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FEBRUARY 15, 2026 — APRIL 10, 2026](#)

Applications are now being accepted for the 2026-2027 AEJMC-MCSD Diversity and Inclusion Career Development Fellowship for graduate students from

historically underrepresented groups. Sponsored by the AEJMC Committee on Career Development and Mass Communication and Society Division, this fellowship is established to help graduate students with career needs such as diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility among other topics. [Application deadline: April 10, 2026.](#)

Women Faculty Moving Forward: Successfully Navigating the Academy

[NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS DECEMBER 1, 2025 — JUNE 15, 2026](#)

Empowering Women in Academia—Today and Tomorrow

AEJMC Pre-Conference Workshop | New Orleans, August 4, 2026

Looking for advice, mentoring, and open discussion about academia? Join the Lillian Lodge Kopenhagen Preconference Workshop for Early Career Women on Tuesday, August 4, at the AEJMC conference in New Orleans. Hear from women who have been through the promotion and tenure process, worked in administration, managed classrooms, developed research agendas, juggled work and personal lives, and worked through problems and solutions. This workshop is designed for those on the tenure track, teaching professors, and/or anyone seeking strategies for teaching, research and service in colleges and universities. Those admitted to the program will become Kopenhagen Center fellows and will be invited to future programming from the Lillian Lodge Kopenhagen Center for the Advancement of Women in Communication at Florida International University. [The deadline for applications is June 15, 2026.](#)

on the job market update

Following are some select positions being advertised for employment. If you have positions you wish to share inviting new colleagues to join your institution, please feel free to forward them to jranta@coastal.edu for publication in our next newsletter.

AEJMC Online Postings: January 16, 2026 – March 1, 2026

The Pennsylvania State University

Posting on February 21, 2026

Director of Online Learning - Teaching Faculty

The Donald P. Bellisario College of Communications at The Pennsylvania State University invites applications for a non-tenure track, open rank faculty position as the Director of Online Learning beginning July 1, 2026.

[More](#)

University of Florida

Posting on February 18, 2026

Media Production Management & Technology
Lecturer

The Department of Media Production, Management, Technology (MPMT) at the University of Florida's College of Journalism and Communications invites applications for a lecturer position with a focus on media management.

[More](#)

University of Missouri

Posting on February 18, 2026

SABEW Endowed Missouri Chair in Business and Financial Journalism

The Missouri School of Journalism invites applications for the SABEW Endowed Missouri Chair in Business and Financial Journalism.

[More](#)

University of Missouri

Posting on February 18, 2026

Lee Hills Chair in Free-Press Studies

The Missouri School of Journalism invites applications for the Lee Hills Chair in Free-Press Studies.

[More](#)

Murray State University

Posting on February 16, 2026

Assistant Professor, Journalism and Mass Communications

Murray State University invites applications for an Assistant Professor, Journalism and Mass Communications. Posting Number 20260029FAC.

[More](#)

High Point University

Posting on February 12, 2026

Open Rank Faculty Position in Media Production & Studio Manager (Emphasis in MultiCamera Production)

The Nido R. Qubein School of Communication (NQSC) at High Point University invites applications for an open rank faculty position in Media Production with additional responsibilities as Studio Manager.

[More](#)

on the job market update

High Point University

Posting February 12, 2026

Multimedia Journalism & Sports Media – Open Rank

The Nido R. Qubein School of Communication (NQSC) at High Point University invites applications for an openrank faculty position in the Department of Multimedia Journalism and Sports Media.

[More](#)

North Carolina A&T State University

Posting on February 11, 2026

News and Record-Janice Byrant Howroyd Endowed Professor

Primary Purpose of Position: The Department of Journalism and Mass Communication invites applications for the News & Record-Janice Bryant Howroyd Endowed Professor position, a 9-month, appointment at the rank of Full Professor.

[More](#)

North Carolina A&T State University

Posting on February 11, 2026

Assistant/Associate Professor in Digital Media

The Department of Journalism and Mass Communication is seeking an Assistant/Associate Professor of digital media.

[More](#)

Stanford University

Posting on February 10, 2026

Communication Lecturer

Stanford University's Department of Communication seeks to hire a 95%FTE lecturer in multimedia journalism.

[More](#)

City University of New York

Posting on February 10, 2026

Director of Admissions

The Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism at CUNY invites applications for the Director of Admissions. Job ID: 31699.

[More](#)

Indiana University

Posting on February 9, 2026

Visiting Professor of Practice in Community Journalism

The Media School at Indiana University invites applications for a Visiting Professor of Practice in Community Journalism to serve a two-year term.

[More](#)

on the job market update

Duke University

Posting on February 4, 2026

Endowed Chair in Journalism and Public Policy

The Sanford School of Public Policy at Duke University seeks applicants for the Eugene C. Patterson Professor of the Practice of Journalism and Public Policy, an endowed chair affiliated with the DeWitt Wallace Center for Media and Democracy.

[More](#)

Indiana University

Posting on January 31, 2026

Lecturer in Multimedia Journalism

We invite applications for a full-time non-tenure-track faculty position in Journalism. The expected start date is August 1, 2026.

[More](#)

City University of Hong Kong

Posting on January 28, 2026

Head of Department of Media and Communication

Applications and nominations are invited for: Head of Department of Media and Communication [Ref. R/038/26].

[More](#)

Fayetteville State University

Posting on January 27, 2026

Lecturer/Adjunct Assistant Professor of Communication and Media Studies

The Department of Communication, Languages, and Cultures at Fayetteville State University seeks a Fixed-Term faculty member starting in Fall 2026.

[More](#)

University of Idaho

Posting on January 27, 2026

Clinical Faculty - Media Writing & Content Creation

The School of Journalism and Mass Media at the University of Idaho in Moscow, Idaho, invites applications for a full-time, non-tenure track Clinical Assistant Professor of Media Writing and Content Creation, beginning August 2026.

[More](#)

South Dakota State University

Posting on January 24, 2026

Assistant or Associate Professor of Practice in Advertising

The School of Communication and Journalism (COJO) at South Dakota State University (SDSU) invites applications for an Assistant or Associate Professor of Practice in Advertising to begin August 2026.

[More](#)

University of Utah

Posting on January 24, 2026

Assistant Professor (Tenure-Track) — Indigenous Communication

The Department of Communication at the University of Utah invites applications for a tenure-track Assistant Professor in Indigenous Communication. Anticipated Start Date: July 1, 2026

[More](#)

on the job market update

Midwestern State University

Posted on January 24, 2026

Instructor or Assistant Professor of Mass Communication – Multimedia Journalism

The Department of Mass Communication at Midwestern State University invites applications for a faculty position in multimedia journalism to begin August 2026.

[More](#)

American University in Cairo

Posted on January 24, 2026

Dean, School of Global Affairs and Public Policy

The School of Global Affairs and Public Policy at the American University in Cairo is seeking an inspirational Dean who will be a visionary leader for the School and guide our further development.

[More](#)

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Posted on January 24, 2026

Assistant Professor-in-Residence in Sports Media

The University of Nevada, Las Vegas invites applications for Assistant Professor-in-Residence in Sports Media, Greenspun School of Journalism and Media Studies [R0150194].

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California State University Bakersfield

Posted on January 15, 2026

Assistant Professor of Communications (Digital Media)

Applications are invited for a tenure-track position in Digital Media with an emphasis on Game Design and 3D Animation at the Assistant Professor level, beginning in August 2026.

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Stony Brook University

Posted on January 15, 2026

Dean of the School of Communication and Journalism

Stony Brook University invites applications and nominations for the position of dean of the School of Communication and Journalism (SoCJ).