Association for Business Communication
2026 Annual International Conference
Baltimore, Maryland, USA, 14–17 October
Virtual, 26–27 October

CALL FOR PROPOSALS
Communicating Community

The Inner Harbor of Baltimore, Maryland, lies along the Patapsco River about 10 miles before it empties into Chesapeake Bay. The blend of fresh and salt water in the Inner Harbor creates a tidal estuary where plants and animals exist in a distinctive, ever-changing, and interdependent community. Business, technical, and professional communication professionals can relate to these estuary conditions: the only constant is change. Interdependence also defines our field—among colleagues and across the boundary between academia and industry. As we prepare for the 2026 ABC Annual International Conference, let the tidal currents of the Inner Harbor prompt reflection on the giving and receiving of knowledge, collegiality, and friendship, the hallmarks of the Association for Business Communication.

We encourage proposals for on-site and virtual sessions that showcase community between academia and industry and among the various disciplines within business, technical, and professional communication.

2026 Conference Topics

- Community Perspectives and Practice
- Crisis Communication
- Ethics and Social Responsibility
- Future of Business Communication
- Innovative Instructional Methods
- Intercultural Communication
- Interpersonal and Team Communication

- Leadership Messaging, Persuasion, and Impact
- Organizational Communication
- Scholarship of Teaching and Learning
- Technical and Professional Communication
- Translational Research
- Visual Rhetoric and Data-Rich Communication

This year's submission period is **Monday, 12 January** through **Tuesday, 31 March**. Submission directions are listed below.

Contact conference co-chairs Barbara Bolt and Bethany Tisdale with any questions at **ABCconference@businesscommunication.org**

Proposal Submissions

Scholars, instructors, and practitioners are invited to submit on-site or virtual proposals. All submissions will be peer-reviewed, and acceptances will be sent via email. Reviewers will assess each proposal for:

- **Contribution.** ABC strives to add value to discussion within the business communication discipline. This proposal contributes to scholarship or to pedagogy in the field.
- **Purpose and Goal.** Purpose and goal are well-defined and relate to current issues or questions in business communication.
- **Takeaway and Outcome.** The conclusion and findings are significant and/or interesting to the field of business communication.
- **Organization and Clarity.** Content is well organized and presented in a logical sequence. Writing is clear and easy to understand.

Presentation Formats

Individual Presentation (15 minutes)
- Presenters will speak for 15 minutes on their proposed topics, followed by a 5-minute Q&A.
- Conference chairs will group individual presentations into one-hour sessions that include up to three presentations on related topics.

Panel (1 hour)
- Three or more presenters will deliver a 60-minute session on one topic.
- The panel should allocate time for each presenter and questions.

Workshop (1 or 2 hours, as proposed by submitter)
- Facilitators will provide a highly interactive, themed session for conference attendees.
- Workshops should provide participants with new approaches to teaching, research, or consulting.

Summit (full or half-day session, as proposed by submitter)
- Facilitators will provide a highly interactive session on vital business, technical, and professional communication topics.
- The structure of the summit is flexible. Proposals that reflect the conference theme and/or location are especially welcome.

Campfire Talks *NEW THIS YEAR*
- Subject matter experts will facilitate 30-minute small group discussions on a trending topic in business, technical, or professional communication. The facilitator should have a strong background in their subject area and be able to listen and make connections for attendees.
- These interactive, informal discussions will take place without technology.

- Proposals should include a summary of the topic, sample discussion questions, and key takeaways.
- Campfire Talks will take place Wednesday afternoon. Facilitators must make travel plans accordingly.

My Favorite Assignment, How Do You Teach Perspectives Beyond Your Own?, Research Roundtable, Three-Minute Research Pitch
- Separate calls for these sessions may be found on the conference website.

Submission Instructions

Log in to the conference website at abc2026.exordo.com. If you have not used Ex Ordo before, please create an account. From there, you may click "Add Submission" and follow the steps below to submit your proposal.

Step 1: Select the track to which you are submitting. For individual presentation, panel, workshop, and summit proposals, select "General Conference Submissions." If you are submitting a proposal for My Favorite Assignment, How Do You Teach Perspectives Beyond Your Own?, Research Roundtable, Three-Minute Research Pitch, and Campfire Talks, be sure to select the appropriate track.

Step 2: Select the presentation format for your submission. See full list of formats above.

Step 3: On the "Title and Abstract" page, provide a short abstract for the conference program (50 word maximum). **Be sure to remove any identifying information (names, institutional affiliations, etc.).** If your proposal is selected, this abstract is what will appear in the conference program.

Step 4: List all authors of the submission. Please indicate which author(s) will be presenting at the conference by checking the "Presenting Author" box next to their name(s).

Step 5: Select one or two topics that best fit your submission.

Step 6: On the "Additional Information" page, you must indicate whether you will present at the on-site or virtual conference.

Step 7: On the final "Abstract" page, please attach a proposal that includes the purpose, goals, methodology, and outcomes of the session. Proposals must be under 500 words and saved as a pdf. You may include references as appropriate; any included reference list does not count toward the 500-word limit. If proposing a workshop, indicate in the abstract whether it requires one or two hours. **Be sure to remove any identifying information (names, institutional affiliations, etc.).**

Submissions for the conference proceedings will be accepted at a later date; formatting guidelines to come.

Submission Checklist

- ✓ Be sure to include all presenters' names on the submission.
- ✓ Inform co-presenters that they must register and present at the conference if the submission is accepted. When listing proposal authorship on your submission:
  - Please use the Corresponding Author checkbox to indicate preference for contact author.
  - If any authors cannot attend the conference, please list these individuals as co-authors, and do not check the Presenting Author box.
  - **Be sure that all authors who intend to attend and present are marked as Presenting Authors.**
- ✓ Submit only **one proposal per presentation format** (individual presentation, panel, workshop, etc.) regardless of modality (on-site or virtual).