



39th Annual
Maryland Communication Association Conference
“Academic Freedom:
Let’s Talk about Higher Ed”
Saturday, October 21, 2023, 10 am – 1 pm, Online

Call for Presentations Deadline:
August 15, 2023: Faculty and Professionals
September 15, 2023: Students

The 39th Annual Maryland Communication Association (MCA) conference theme “**Academic Freedom: Let’s Talk about Higher Ed**” examines academic freedom in institutions of higher education. Contemporary attacks on the value of higher education and academic freedom are increasing in the US. Multiple states are considering proposals to eliminate tenure from universities, potentially infringing on faculty teaching and research subjects. At the same time that college students have become the most diverse in US history, some institutions and legislatures fight against diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) efforts. This conference invites a civil dialogue about freedom in modern higher education. We invite submissions that address the topic of freedom as it relates to education, speech, media, civil and human rights, identity politics and belonging, choice, beliefs, dissent, safety, discrimination, and opportunity. We can continue the conversation at the 109th National Communication Association Annual Conference at the National Harbor in Maryland, November 16-19, 2023, with the theme, “[Freedom](#).”

Proposals Types and Formats:

1. MCA Scholarship Presentation (10-15 minutes)

Individual paper presentations are research-based and explore communication scholarship, theories, and concepts. Your study can break new ground or reconsider an existing argument on communication topics. This submission type is for faculty, staff, and graduate students. We especially seek submissions related to the theme of academics and freedom.

By August 15, [submit online here](#): your name, organization affiliation, position title, email address, brief biography (not to exceed 100 words), presentation title, and abstract (not to exceed 250 words).

2. MCA G.I.F.T.S.

(Great Ideas for Teaching Students) Presentations (10-15 minutes)

G.I.F.T.S. must be a classroom-tested activity, assignment, project, or simulation, or a department initiative (such as competitions, festivals, etc.) addressing a communication theory, concept, skill, or learning objective. This submission type is for teachers at any level. We especially seek submissions related to the theme of academics and freedom.

By August 15, [submit online here](#): your name, organization affiliation, position title, email address, brief biography (not to exceed 100 words), GIFTS title, and project summary (not to exceed 250 words).

3. MCA Professional Development Panel (5 minute, followed by Q&A)

Colleagues in any relevant career area are invited to join an interactive professional development panel to support communication students, recent alumni, and emerging professional success in communication careers. Professionals have 5 minutes to share their career overview and advice. After all panelists have presented, they will answer audience questions. This submission type is for professionals in jobs that routinely use and value applied communication skills.

By August 15, [submit online here](#): your name, organization affiliation, position title, email address, brief biography (not to exceed 100 words), and key career lessons (not to exceed 250 words).

4. MCA Student 3-Minute Blitz (3 minutes)

Three Minute Thesis is a research communication competition which began at The University of Queensland, Australia, in 2008, and has expanded into an international event. The competition challenges students to consolidate their research ideas into an interesting three-minute presentation, which can be understood by a general audience. We will share more details once students are selected. This submission type is for undergraduate or graduate students.

By September 15, [submit online here](#): your name, organization affiliation, email address, year in school, major(s) and minor(s), presentation title, and presentation summary (not to exceed 100 words).

About Us:

The Maryland Communication Association is a collective of communication educators, students, and professionals, who are active teachers, trainers, researchers, authors, practitioners, and leaders. Our roots are in the Maryland Communication Cooperative, formed in 1973. Among our accomplishments is our pivotal role in the shaping and adoption of statewide competency standards for Communication courses in General Education programs and our participation to facilitate articulation agreements in Communication in the State of Maryland.

Contact Us:

- Email: mdca1997@gmail.com
- Web: <https://www.marylandcommassociation.com/>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MarylandCommAssociation>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/MarylandComm>

Executive Board:

- Dr. Chrys Egan, President, Salisbury University, cnegan@salisbury.edu
- Dr. Lee Krähenbühl, First Vice President, Stevenson University
- Dr. Dara Phillips, Secretary, Wor-Wic Community College
- Dr. Amy Oneal-Self, Treasurer, Wor-Wic Community College
- Dr. Colin Campbell, Immediate Past President, Howard University
- Sherry Tucker, M.A., Past President, Community College of Baltimore County
- Denise Gilmer-Knudson, Past President, College of Southern Maryland

Join Us: [Details online here](#)

Conference Registration

- \$30 Full-time Faculty/Staff Member
- \$20 Part-time Faculty/Staff Member
- \$10 Student

Individual Memberships

- \$30 Full-time Faculty/Staff Member
- \$20 Part-time Faculty/Staff Member
- \$10 Student

Institutional Memberships

- \$100 Institutional Membership
- Membership for 5 people
- Institution's name and logo on conference materials

Membership Benefits

- Opportunities to network with communication professionals, academics, and practitioners throughout the State of Maryland
- Subscription to the MCA newsletter
- Access to professional development opportunities
- Voting rights
- Opportunities to participate in MCA leadership roles