

Candidate Statement
Leeanne Bell McManus, Stevenson University

I am honored and humbled to be a nominee for First Vice-President Elect-Select of ECA. ECA has a rich history of teaching, scholarship, and service. As the oldest professional communication association in the United States, we have a responsibility to embrace all three commitments, recognizing that our diverse members may emphasize one, two, or all three of these areas at different points in their careers and lives.

I am an associate professor in the Business Communication department at Stevenson University. I earned my Ph.D. in Rhetoric from Duquesne University and my M.A. in Communication Studies from West Virginia University. I teach traditional and online courses in public relations, event planning, conflict, communication ethics, organizational communication and interpersonal communication and was named the Teacher of the Year from Public Relations Society of America Maryland Chapter (2014-2015) and received the prestigious Fostering Learning Award (2014) from Stevenson University.

I have co-authored two books, *Communication Ethics Literacy: Dialogue and Difference* (Sage, 2009), and *Conflict between Persons: The Origins of Leadership* (Kendall Hunt, 2014). I am currently working on my third co-authored book, *Event Planning: Communicating Theory and Practice*. I have also published excerpts in *Exploring Communication Ethics: Interviews with Influential Scholars in the Field* and *The Encyclopedia of Social Identity*. I have published in *Atlantic Journal of Communication*, *Communication Education*, *Communication Annual: Journal of the Pennsylvania Communication Association* and *Review of Communication*. I have been a reviewer for *Communication Theory*, *Review of Communication*, *Communication and Religion*, and *Qualitative Research Reports*.

My record of service to ECA to this point includes the following positions: ECA Second Vice-President, (Baltimore, 2010; 2016) Marketing Director, (Arlington, 2011; Cambridge, 2012), Committee of Scholars (2011-2012) The James C. McCroskey and Virginia P. Richmond Undergraduate Scholars Conference Coordinator (Providence 2014). Poster Session Planner (Philadelphia, 2015), Chair/program planner, Instructional Communication Division, (Philadelphia, 2009), Chair/program planner, Philosophy of Communication Division, (Pittsburgh, 2013)

If elected by the membership, I would pursue three goals relate to teaching, research, and service.

First, I believe ECA has the best teachers and scholars in this profession, and we need to find ways to spotlight the importance of instruction and scholarship through mentorship. I entered this discipline because I love to teach and write. I was mentored by great teachers and scholars who have shaped my instructional style and enhanced my scholarship. My goal is to create a mentorship program to help our members become better instructors and

scholars. This mentorship program will work with the recipients of Distinguished Teaching and Research Fellows to create workshops and panels for the membership.

Second, continued commitment to undergraduate and graduate student membership is vital as we cultivate the next generation of communication instructors and scholars. The James C. McCroskey and Virginia P. Richmond Undergraduate Scholars Conference is an ideal starting point for reaching our undergrads. As we continue to develop this conference, it will be important to evaluate other opportunities for undergraduate students. Moreover, we need to work with our graduate students so that they feel ECA is their home no matter where they end up in their careers.

Third, I would seek to develop the diversity of participation in ECA. Our membership is rich in diversity, and we can promote that diversity in ECA leadership. Service comes in many forms, and my goal will be to create opportunities for all members to serve in various capacities.

ECA has a historic legacy unmatched among regional associations. If elected I would work to preserve, support, and add to that legacy, drawing from the wisdom of the past and seeking cooperative engagement of the organization's membership to develop an even stronger organization in the future. Thank you for your consideration of my candidacy for ECA First Vice-President Elect-Select. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at lbell@stevenson.edu.