

Excellence at the Center
The University of Southern Mississippi
April 11-12, 2025

Friday, April 11th

11 AM

Registration Opens – Speaking Center 115 (Room C)

12 – 12:45 PM

Speaking Center 114 (Room A)

Communication Center to Instructional Design: Your Next Quest

Jenny Southard, University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Kayt Stewart, University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Kim Cuny, University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Chair: Jenny Southard, University of North Carolina at Greensboro

1 – 1:45 PM

Speaking Center 114 (Room A)

GIFT Session

Using Storytelling Circles for Connection, Communication, and Confidence

Arianna Alsop, Rochester Institute of Technology

Samantha Schreiber, Rochester Institute of Technology

Kora Lovdahl, Rochester Institute of Technology

Adrian Burgos, Rochester Institute of Technology

Marissa Hura, Rochester Institute of Technology

Elevating Communication Excellence: The Benefits Of Teaching Writing and Speaking Together

Jackson Martin, Hampden-Sydney College

2:00 – 2:45 PM

Speaking Center 114 (Room A)

Is It Getting Dark in Here? Shutting Down Dark Communication During Online Coaching Sessions Without Shutting Down the Student

Nike Jacob, University of Alaska Fairbanks

Charles Thomas, University of Alaska Fairbanks

Amy May, University of Alaska Fairbanks

Victoria McDermott, University of Alaska Fairbanks

Chair: Ayleen Gontz, University of Alaska Fairbanks

Writing Center (Room B)

Inclusive Pedagogy and Communication Center Research

Laura Stengrim, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Miranda Rouse, Hampden-Sydney College

Elizabeth Reeves O'Connor, Rochester Institute of Technology

Carl J. Brown, Grand Valley State University

Kim Cuny, University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Speaking Center 115 (Room C)

Elevating Communication Across the Curriculum

Led by: Amy Gaffney, Hamilton College

3:00 – 3:45 PM

Speaking Center 114 (Room A)

Building an Intens(iv)e Speaking Immersion Opportunity: Workshops and Competitions

Amy Gaffney, Hamilton College

Del Gonzales, Hamilton College

Tinashe Manguwa, Hamilton College

Lauren Prins, Hamilton College

Writing Center (Room B)

Using Speech Competitions to Enhance Communication Center Visibility

Elizabeth Reeves O'Connor, Rochester Institute of Technology

Arianna Alsop, Rochester Institute of Technology

Samantha Schreiber, Rochester Institute of Technology

Kora Lovdahl, Rochester Institute of Technology
Adrian Burgos, Rochester Institute of Technology

Speaking Center 117 (Room C)

GIFT Session

Power Play: Honing Leadership Skills in the Center

Brandi Quesenberry, Virginia Tech

Anxiety Management Plans

Sarah Hinkle, Colorado College

Understanding the Student with ADHD

Shawn Schooling, Hampden-Sydney College

4:00 – 5:00 PM

Speaking Center 114 (Room A)

Welcome Remarks and Dinner

5:00 – 8:00 PM

Union Room B

Networking and Mingling Session

Saturday, April 12th

9:00 – 9:30 AM

Speaking Center 114 (Room A)

Business Meeting

9:30 – 10:15 AM

Speaking Center 114 (Room A)

Empowering Leaders of Communication Centers: Voicing Excellence Through the Review and Promotion Process

Miranda Rouse, Hampden-Sydney College
Debbie Baker, University of North Carolina at Charlotte
Carl J. Brown, Grand Valley State University
Laura Stengrim, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Elizabeth Reeves O'Connor, Rochester Institute of Technology

Writing Center (Room B)

Student Panel

From Lab to Lectern: Public Speaking for STEM Student in Our Modern Political World

Rue Quick, George Mason University

뭐라고 했어요? Bridging the Gap Between Monolingual Consultants and Multilingual Clients

Elias Collier, George Mason University

10:30 – 11:15 AM

Speaking Center 114 (Room A)

From the Basement to the Stage: Increasing Presence and Removing Barriers through Partnerships on Campus

Jasper Cao, University of Texas – Dallas
Soha Khan, University of Texas – Dallas
Jennifer Pai, University of Texas – Dallas
Wan Yu Wang, University of Texas – Dallas
Chairs: Laura Goldstein & Rica Lelina, University of Texas – Dallas

Writing Center (Room B)

Fostering Leadership: The Transformative Role of Communication Centers in Consultant Success

Amy Arbogast, University of Rochester
Laurel Jane Holloman, George Mason University
Sachita Pandey, George Mason University
Ken Kunkel, Arizona State University
Zack Sowder, Virginia Tech University

11:30 AM – 12:15 PM

Speaking Center

Lunch Sponsored by the University of Illinois Speakers Workshop



Speakers Workshop



Speakers Workshop

12:30 – 1:15 PM

Speaking Center 114 (Room A)

Paper Panel

Centering Communication in the Center: Identifying Partnerships between Campus Communication Centers and Communities

Carl J. Brown, Grand Valley State University

Communication Centers' Role in Combatting Click-Driven Chaos

Andrew D. Barnes, James Madison University

From Outreach to Action: How Media-Rich Messaging Impacts Communication Center Attendance

Shelby Broberg, George Mason University

Sachita Pandey, George Mason University

Writing Center (Room B)

Creating Space for Students, Figuratively: Looking at the Opportunities of Using Cognitive Modification to Address PSA Through a “Green Room” Perspective

JaVeon Brigham, University of Alaska Fairbanks

Ayleen Gontz, University of Alaska Fairbanks

Nike Jacob, University of Alaska Fairbanks

Chair: Charles Thomas, University of Alaska Fairbanks

1:30 – 2:15 PM

Speaking Center 114 (Room A)

Resisting the Prescriptive Process of Community Building Part III: Surviving and Thriving in the Communication Center with Our Cultural Stories

Miranda Rouse, Hampden-Sydney College

Catalina Cayetano, Arizona State University

Amy May, University of Alaska Fairbanks

Kanika Jackson, Towson University

Writing Center (Room B)

Introspection During Uncertain Times: A New Application of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs

Carl J. Brown, Grand Valley State University

3:30 – 4:15 PM

Speaking Center 114 (Room A)

Here We Go Again: COMCenter Leadership, Student Support and Maintaining Mental Health during (More) Unprecedented Times

Tori McDermott, University of Alaska Fairbanks

Amy May, University of Alaska Fairbanks

Chair: Nike Jacob, University of Alaska Fairbanks