



COMMUNICATION: THE HEART OF IT ALL

**ILLINOIS COMMUNICATION AND
THEATRE ASSOCIATION**

2023 ANNUAL CONVENTION

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 – SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2023
ASTROTH COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTER, HEARTLAND COLLEGE
NORMAL, ILLINOIS 61761**

Illinois Communication and Theatre Association

Welcome from the First Vice President

Heather Danek

ICTA First Vice President

Chair, Conference Planning Committee



To my ICTA friends, old and new,

Driving home from last year's convention, it hit me: what we teach as communication educators is the heart and soul of everything. For our students, we know that success in the 21st Century workplace starts with a solid foundation of communication skills. No matter the job – doctor, engineer, plumber, airline pilot, food service worker – the ability to speak, listen and understand others is central to the work. When I think about our own field, I realized that every teacher, be they math, philosophy, music, physical education, is in some way, a communication educator. Every time we step into that classroom, we work to relate, understand, negotiate, and empathize with our students and colleagues. Our students' ability to communicate well starts with us; WE are the HEART of it ALL. So that's the good news.

And now, the flip side.

It is undeniable that our world is changing, and our discipline is changing with it. Recent national events and geopolitical unrest have affected what and how we teach. State legislatures and local school boards are mandating curriculum changes. Students are using new technology, for better or worse. Parents are more involved in our schools, both in positive and, sometimes, more disruptive ways. In short, it is harder to do our jobs. The ICTA Convention provides us the opportunity to collaborate, connect, and communicate with each other in the midst of all of these daily challenges.

If you are like me and have been coming to ICTA for a while, you know that this weekend gives us the time we need to work on mutual goals and dialogue about our shared struggles. If you're new to the organization, congratulations! You have found yourself among some of the most committed, creative, and talented teachers in Illinois. Make the most of your time here. Make some new friends, get involved and take it all in. I hope you'll find, like I did more than 25 years ago, that ICTA is the best professional development you'll get in your career.

With that being said, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the Illinois Communication and Theater Association's 2023 Convention, Communication — The Heart of It All. Planning this convention has really been a labor of love for me. I say that because everything about this convention: ideas for the sessions, the special events, and even suggestions for food and requests to keep "the good vibes coming," came from you, our membership. We worked hard to provide you with the type of professional development, networking, and experiences you want to see from your state association. So on behalf of the Convention Planning Committee and the 2023 ICTA Executive Board, we hope you feel the LOVE this year.

Enjoy the convention!

Heather Danek

ICTA First Vice President

Chair, Convention Planning Committee

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We Know You Are Going to ❤️ the 2023 ICTA Convention

This is our second year hosting our annual convention at a community college. This year, we have found new friends and partnerships with our host, Heartland Community College. Much like ICTA itself, Heartland is a close-knit environment. Over the past nine months, the Convention Planning Committee has worked hard to provide you with innovative programming and a heart-y dose of fun! Again this year, both Friday and Saturday, we will have full days of panels and discussions. See below for the highlights of ICTA 2023.

Welcome Reception (*Holiday Inn Lobby Bar, Thursday - 8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.*)

Join us for an informal gathering in the hotel to reunite with old friends and meet new ones. This is a time when we can celebrate the legacy of the past leaders of our organization while welcoming new members.

Special Programs (*Friday and Saturday*)

Spotlight Panel with Dr. Asif Wilson - Friday at 9:00 a.m.

This three-part seminar will feature Dr. Asif Wilson's "The Six Pillars of Teaching and Learning: Towards Pedagogies of Risk in P-20 Classrooms." Part 1 will be a table-talk discussion and brainstorming session focused on addressing the needs of students. Part two will feature Dr. Wilson's research presentation, providing a comprehensive view of his findings. Finally, part three will offer the opportunity for educators to explore and implement the Pedagogy of Risk in their own classrooms.

Graduate Student Forum - Friday at 9:00 a.m.

Join us for a three-part conversation where graduate students share their latest research and learning experiences. Get an insider's look into cutting-edge projects, innovative methodologies, and exciting findings that are shaping the future of our discipline. Engage with these passionate scholars as they showcase their academic journeys and contribute to the ever-evolving landscape of communication research

State of Debate - Saturday at 3:30 p.m.

At the June 2023 IHSA Board Meeting, the IHSA Board of Directors voted to discontinue the Debate State Championship for the 2023-2024 academic year. Debate is where forensics started, and a state level championship is necessary for existing programs to continue as well as for new programs to flourish. Join this discussion to collaborate on ways to encourage the IHSA to reinstate the Debate State Championship moving forward.

Special Performance by Members of the Community Players Theatre of Bloomington-Normal (*Saturday, 12:00 p.m.*)

As we enjoy a box lunch on Saturday, members of the Community Players Theatre, Megan McDillon and Latrisha Green, will share their musical talents with us. The Community Players Theatre of Bloomington-Normal is a rich all-volunteer organization with 100 continuous seasons.

ICTA's First Ever Backyard Bash (Holiday Inn - Evergreen Room, Friday, 5:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.)

Join Heather Danek, the 2023-2024 President, at this fun reception. Wear your custom ICTA gear or spirit wear from your college, school, or team. Enjoy the finger foods, cash bar, conversation, and karaoke beginning at 5:30 p.m. And what's a tailgate without throwing some "bags"? Challenge a friend to a game of "Cornhole" with the custom-made ICTA bag boxes. If you want to take a little bit of ICTA 2023 home with you, this bag set is on the silent auction! At 7:30 p.m., we will present the Connie Link Outstanding Mentorship Award. Brain Bash Team Trivia will begin at 7:45 p.m.!

On the Town in Blo-No: Destihl Brewery Tour and Dinner (Saturday 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.)

After the hard work of the convention concludes, kick back with your ICTA friends at local favorite hot spot, Destihl Brew Hall. We will take a 30-minute walking tour of the brewery that will include some tasty samples and souvenir tasting glass. When the tour concludes, stick around for a relaxed dinner in a fun environment. Live music, good food, good drinks and interesting conversation – who could ask for more? Pre-registration and pre-payment (\$10) is necessary to join the brewery tour. Text Heather Danek (815-325-8557) for more information.

Before You Go 9-Hole Scramble (Sunday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)

Before heading home, hit the links with Heather Danek for nine holes of golf at Highland Park Golf Course in Bloomington. Don't worry if you aren't PGA ready! We will play a "best ball" round.

Book and Materials Exchange

Bring books or materials related to your discipline that you would like to contribute to the exchange table; take books that interest you. This is a fantastic way to pass along materials and books that you've already enjoyed while also finding some new gems.

Electronic Script Exchange (Forensics)

For many years, ICTA has sponsored a script exchange as one of our key services at conventions. For the past several years, we have collected scripts electronically to share with interested members. All those who would like to participate need to send an electronic copy of a performance ready script for PRO, POET, OD, HI, HDA, DI, or DDA. Be sure to include specific publication information as well. If you are interested in participating, please fill out this google form:

<https://forms.gle/wuuSixx6TZvxDN2Q6> (or QR code) between NOW and September 30th.



Electronic Lesson Plan Exchange (Communication)

The Swap Shop has been a highlight of ICTA for many years. Swap shop participants email a lesson plan, article, activity, etc. for the communication classroom or extracurricular activities. If you are interested in participating, please fill out this google form: <https://forms.gle/wuuSixx6TZvxDN2Q6> (or QR code) between NOW and September 30th. The collected lessons will then be e-mailed to all who contributed a lesson. If there are any issues, email Justin Matkovich at jmatkovich@csd99.org.



Food and Conversation

If you are staying at the convention hotel (the Holiday Inn, Bloomington-Normal), breakfast is included in the convention rate. For those not staying at the convention hotel, there will be a continental breakfast at the Astroth Community Education Center in Room 2101/2102 from 7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. For those who are coming to the Friday luncheon and Annual Business Meeting, we will have a buffet. Saturday's luncheon will include a boxed lunch.

Professional Development Units

ICTA is a registered Professional Development Provider for Illinois K-12 teachers. PD hours are earned when you attend eligible sessions. Please indicate your desire to get PD hours and provide your IEIN number when you arrive and pick up your convention badge at the registration table. You may use the "Conference-at-a-Glance" as your checklist for sessions you attend. Before you leave the convention, you will also need to fill out an evaluation form (77-21A), available at the registration table. Return this to the registration table. You will then receive the completion form (77-21B). If you have any questions, please see Ed Schwarz at the registration table during the weekend.

Vote on Constitutional Changes

Members will vote on proposed changes to the ICTA Constitution and Bylaws at the Annual Business Meeting, Friday, September 15, 2023. Those proposed changes are available for review and discussion on the ICTA website: <https://illinoiscta.org/forums/>. Discussion time will be limited during the Annual Business Meeting prior to the vote.

Join us on Social Media:












Special Thanks:














This convention would not be possible without contributions from people, organizations and institutions throughout the state and region. **The ICTA Executive Board gratefully acknowledges the contributions of the following:**









- Heartland Community College and the Astroth Community Education Center
- Prairie State College, Host for ICTA's Central Office
- William Rainey Harper College, and Jamie Rewerts, Dean of Liberal Arts
- POPS (Power of Public Speaking), Platinum Sponsor
- Community Players Theater of Bloomington-Normal

ICTA Convention At-A-Glance

All convention sessions will be held on the 2nd floor of the Astroth Community Education Center

TIME	EVENT	ROOM/LOCATION
Thursday	September 14, 2023	
5:00 p.m.	Board Meeting/Convention Planning Meeting	Holiday Inn, 4th Floor Concierge Room
8:00 p.m.-10 :00 p.m.	Welcome Reception – Meet/Greet & Raffle Prizes! All conference attendees invited	Holiday Inn Lobby Bar
Friday	September 15, 2023	
7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	Registration	Astroth Community Education Center 2nd Floor Lobby
7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Continental Breakfast	2101/2102
8:00 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.	New Member Orientation	2101/2102
8:15 a.m. – 8:50 a.m.	Opening Session Norton Award & Hunsaker Award Presentations	2101/2102
Friday 9:00 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.	Sessions 1 and 2	
	All's Fair in Love and IHSA Speech: The IHSA Rules Meeting	2210
	Don't Miss a Beat: The IIFA Fall Meeting	2200
	Spotlight Session: The Pedagogy of Risk with Dr. Asif Wilson. This session will include a pre-discussion activity and a post-discussion debrief.	2204/2205
	Communicating for the Future: Tales and Triumphs from Graduate School Students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part 1: Discussion Panel 9:00 a.m.-9:50 a.m. • Part 2: Transitioning to Full Time 10:00 a.m.-10:50 a.m. • Part 3: Graduate Student GIFTS 11:00 a.m.-11:50 a.m. 	2206/2207
Friday 12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m.	Luncheon & Business Meeting Sandford & Harrod Awards Presentation All conference attendees invited	2101/2102
Throughout the conference	Silent Auction, Swap Shop, & Book/Materials Exchange All conference attendees invited to participate	Astroth 2nd Floor Lobby
Friday 1:45 p.m.-3:00 p.m.	Session 3	
	Road To Recovery Roundtable: Wins, Losses, and Lessons of IAI Online Speech Setting and Audience Requirements	2200
	Equitable Evaluation: Addressing ELL's Needs in Communications Classes	2210
	Kickstart Our Hearts: Social and Emotional Learning for Educators	2204/2205
	Elevating COMM 101: The Intersection of AI and Affordable Education	2206/2207
	Getting to the Heart of Equity Gaps	2100

Friday 3:15 p.m.-4:30 p.m.	Session 4	
	Sharing the Love: Mentoring New Coaches and New Faculty	2100 (Breakouts in 2100/2101)
	How We Persevere: Doing What We Love in the Face of Curricular Challenges	2210
	Getting Ready for the Real World: Dual Credit and the College and Career Pathways Endorsement	2200
	Stronger Together: Embracing Diversity and Fostering Inclusion	2206/2207
	Chat GPT/AI: Heart Healthy or Heart Attack?	2204/2205
Friday Evening 5:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.	Backyard Bash 5:30 p.m.: Dinner on your Own (or light snacks, games, and karaoke in the Evergreen Room) 7:30 p.m.: Connie Link Mentorship Award 7:45 p.m.: Brain Bash Trivia Contest All conference attendees invited	Holiday Inn, Bloomington Evergreen Room
Saturday	September 16, 2023	
7:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Registration	Astroth Community Education Center
7:30 a.m.-8:45 a.m.	Continental Breakfast and Mathis Award Presentation	2101/2102
Saturday 9:00 a.m.-10:15 a.m.	Session 5	
	Small Teaching: Little Adaptations to Change the Beating Heart of Your Classroom	2100
	Developing Effective Judges for your Competitive Season	2204/2205
	Following Our Hearts: Bringing What We Love Into the Classroom	2206/2207
	The World of Language	2200
Saturday 10:30 a.m.-11:45 a.m.	Session 6	
	GIFTS - The Greatest Hits	2210
	Defying Expectations and Challenging Our Perspectives: The Heart and Soul of Gen Z	2200
	Flames for Advocacy in Education	2100
	All The World's A Stage: Learning From Community Theater	2206/2207
12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.	ICTA Town Hall & Boxed Lunch Community Players Theater Performance	2101/2102

Saturday 2:15 p.m.-3:15 p.m.	Session 7	
	Performer to Coach: Student Performance Panel - Part 1	2204/2205
	GIFTS - Tech Tools: The Pulse of the 21st Century Classroom	2210
	Crushing on Books: A Book Club Where You Don't Have to Read the Book	2200
	Debate: At The Heart of Forensics	2206/2207
Saturday 3:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.	Session 8	
	Relieving the Pressure of the Distracted Student: Strategies for Understanding and Motivating Today's Disengaged Student	2200
	Teaching From the Heart: The Role of Emotional Expression in Classroom Instruction	2206/2207
	From Words to the World: Student Performance Panel I- Part 2	2204/2205
	Strengthening the Heart of ICTA: Long Range Planning	2100
4:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Closing Session Raffles, door prizes, silent auction	2101/2102
Saturday Evening 6:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.	Destihl Brewery Tour, Dinner, and Live Music \$10 fee must be prepaid	1200 Greenbriar Drive Normal, IL
Throughout the conference	Silent Auction, Swap Shop, & Book/Materials Exchange All conference attendees invited to participate	Astroth 2nd Floor Lobby
Sunday Morning	September 17, 2023	
9:00 a.m.-12:00 pm. (Exact time based on number of players and tee time availability)	Golf 9 Holes with the Prez Best Ball/Scramble Style \$30 for golf and cart Text Heather Danek at 815-325-8557 to join All conference attendees invited	Highland Park Golf Course 1613 South Main St. Bloomington, IL

2023 ICTA CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Thursday, September 14, 2023

5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. -- ICTA Board Meeting and Dinner

Location: Concierge Lounge – 4th Floor – Holiday Inn, Normal, IL

8:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. Welcome Reception

Location: Holiday Inn: Lobby/Bar

Join us for an informal gathering in the hotel to reunite with old friends and meet new ones. Traditionally called the Past Presidents' Reception, this is a time when we can celebrate the legacy of the past leaders of our organization while welcoming new members.

Friday, September 15, 2023

7:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Registration

**Location: 2nd Floor Lobby Astroth Community Education Center (ACEC)
Heartland Community College**

Pick up your convention badge when you arrive at the convention. If you have any material for the book and materials exchange, you may leave them at the registration table. **High school teachers may register for professional development hours when you check in.**

7:30 a.m. - 8:45 a.m. – Light Breakfast and Opening Session

Room: (ACEC 2101/2102)

Coffee and light breakfast items are available for morning attendees. New ICTA members can stop by the Welcome Table to get acquainted with ICTA members to learn what the Illinois Communication and Theater Association has to offer. At this breakfast session, we will also present the L.E. Norton Higher Education Student Award and the Richard A. Hunsaker High School Student Award.

9:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

Sessions 1 and 2

Friday

♥ For the Love of Teaching and Coaching – Illinois High School Association (IHSA) Forensics Coaches Meeting Part 1 and 2 - Rule Changes and Updates

Room: ACEC 2210

Sponsor: Secondary Forensics

Presenters: Jan Heiteen, Downers Grove South High School, Retired
Susie Knoblauch, IHSA

This session will address rule changes in Individual Events, Drama/Group Interp, and Debate for the 2022-23 Season. Hot topics and procedural items from the Advisory Meeting and Coaches Roundtables will be discussed. Subjects such as tournament design, event maintenance/changes, hosting and tournament management, state and national trends, and more to be shared. Share your ideas live and offer your recommendations on a coaches' survey!

♥ For the Love of Teaching and Coaching – Illinois Intercollegiate Forensics Association (IIFA) Meeting

Room: ACEC 2200

Sponsor: Higher Ed Forensics

Presenters: IIFA Board - Jeff Przybylo, William Rainey Harper College

The Illinois Intercollegiate Forensics Association's Fall Coaches Meeting will discuss college speech/individual events as well as debate.

★ DIVERSITY AND EQUITY SPOTLIGHT PANEL – Heart To Heart: The Pedagogy of Risk

Room: ACEC 2204/2205

Presenters: Dr. Asif Wilson, University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana
Sunny Serres, Harold Washington College

This three-part seminar will feature Dr. Asif Wilson's "The Six Pillars of Teaching and Learning: Towards Pedagogies of Risk in P-20 Classrooms." Dr. Wilson's research builds upon Paulo Freire's life's work, which includes *The Pedagogy of the Oppressed*, and introduces a transformative approach to create more liberating classroom environments. Drawing upon ethnographic methods such as interviews and personal reflection, Dr. Wilson identified six key characteristics of teaching and learning, collectively forming the Pedagogy of Risk. This pedagogical framework aims to better support teachers in creating teaching and learning contexts for their students to critically read and rewrite their worlds. In part one of the seminar, Sunny Serres will host a table-talk discussion and brainstorming session focused on addressing the needs of students. Part two will feature Dr. Wilson's research presentation, providing a comprehensive view of his findings. Finally, part three will offer the opportunity for educators to explore and implement the Pedagogy of Risk in their own classrooms. This last segment will consist of a Q&A and discussion session allowing participants to delve into practical application strategies and share their own experiences.

This panel is of special interest to anyone who wants to create more equity in their classrooms while also allowing students to have more freedom and agency over their learning.

9:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. Session 1 and 2 - Continued

Friday

 **GRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT PANEL – Communicating for the Future: Tales and Triumphs from Graduate School Students**

Room: ACEC 2206-2207

Panel Chair: Rocky Roque, University of Illinois Chicago

Presenters: Damian Samsonowicz, Northern Illinois University
 Frankie Kimmell, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale
 Nick Steinmetz, Illinois State University
 Josh Fitzgerald, Heartland Community College
 Cassie Wingert, College of DuPage
 Carla Huffman, Heartland Community College
 Dr. Stephen Hunt, Illinois State University

Join us for a three-part conversation where graduate students share their latest research and learning experiences. Get an insider's look into cutting-edge projects, innovative methodologies, and exciting findings that are shaping the future of our discipline. Engage with these passionate scholars as they showcase their academic journeys and contribute to the ever-evolving landscape of communication research.

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Luncheon and Annual Business Meeting

Room: ACEC 2101/2102

Convention planners will officially open the convention and announce any last-minute program changes or useful information to help you get the most out of the convention. Be sure to register for the luncheon when you register for the convention. There will be a short business meeting during the luncheon, including Executive Board annual reports and consideration of revisions to the ICTA Constitution and Bylaws. Finally and most importantly, we will present the Edith Marjorie Harrod Award and the W. P. Sandford Award. The business luncheon is sponsored by POPS: The Power of Public Speaking.

♥ For the Love of Teaching and Coaching – Equitable Evaluation: Addressing ELL's Needs in Communication Classes

Room: ACEC 2210

Presenters: Erin Vobarnik, Elgin Community College
Dr. Heather Martin, Elgin Community College

Presenters will review common obstacles faced by English Language Learners in communications classes. They will provide participants with guidance on formulating equitable metrics for assessment and giving appropriate feedback and support to students. Participants will learn how to create an inclusive and supportive environment, empowering their students to express themselves confidently and articulately in the English language.

😡 Hot Button Issues for All Educators – The Road to Recovery Roundtable: One year later, Wins, Losses, and Lessons of IAI Online Speech Setting & Audience Requirements

Room: ACEC 2200

Presenters: Rocky Roque, University of Illinois Chicago
Harry Bodell, Highland Community College
Dana Trunnell, Prairie State College
Brent Damsz, William Rainey Harper College
Jenny Armendarez, Harold Washington College
Jeff Przybylo, William Rainey Harper College
Steve Thompson, College of DuPage

A roundtable discussion about the IAI collegiate basic speech courses' setting/audience requirements instituted in Fall 2022. Bring your strategies, best practices, pitfalls, and suggestions.

♥ For the Love of Teaching and Coaching – Elevating COMM 101: The Intersection of AI and Affordable Education

Room: ACEC 2206-2207

Presenters: Tyler Poteet, Power of Public Speaking

Looking to enhance your COMM 101 class? Curious about incorporating cutting-edge technology to engage your students more effectively? Join us to explore innovative strategies to revitalize your curriculum. Gain actionable insights you can implement right away to make a substantial impact on both student engagement and retention.



1:45 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.**Session 3 - Continued****Friday**** Hot Button Issues for All Educators – Getting to the Heart of Equity Gaps****Room: ACEC 2100**

Presenters: Natasha Casey, Lincoln Land Community College
 Brooke Morentz, College of DuPage
 Naz Ahmed, Hoffman Estates High School

In this panel discussion, we will detail different technology tools that can be used by communication teachers to improve their course construction. We will examine these tools in depth and explore how to incorporate them into the curriculum to create a more engaging and interactive learning experience for students. By utilizing these ideas, communication teachers can stay current with the latest trends and techniques in the field and also create a more dynamic and effective classroom environment. Let's delve into the heart of technology that can enhance communication education!

 Keeping Our Fire Alive – Kickstart Our Hearts: Social Emotional Learning for Educators (Too)**Room: ACEC 2204/2205**

Presenters: Lauren Mann, The Chicago High School for the Arts
 Matt Marino, Minooka Community High School
 Laura Hilger, Marian Catholic High School

CASEL (Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning) has learned that schools are more effective at teaching and reinforcing SEL for students when they also cultivate SEL competencies in adults. Successful SEL implementation depends on how well staff work together to foster a positive school community, and model social and emotional competence. This calls on schools to focus on adults' professional growth as educators as well as their own social and emotional learning.

3:30 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.**Session 4****Friday**** For the Love of Teaching and Coaching – Sharing the Love: Mentoring New Coaches and New Faculty****Room: ACEC 2100 (with breakout discussions in 2100 and 2101)**

Presenters: Marilee Applebee, Seneca Township High School
 Andrea Gustafson, Morris Community High School
 Dr. Stephen Hunt, Illinois State University
 Jenny Armandarez, Harold Washington College

Feeling overwhelmed with your new position as a communication instructor? This session is designed to be a collaboration between new communication faculty, adjuncts, and experienced teachers to share their knowledge and insights about the profession. For anyone new or just starting their journey as a speech and debate coach or a classroom teacher, it can feel daunting. This session is designed to share materials and insights to help jump start any coach's or teacher's career. This session will begin with a general discussion and then participants will break into smaller interest groups.

3:30 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.**Session 4 - Continued****Friday**** Hot Button Issues for All Educators – Getting Ready for the Real World: Dual Credit and the College and Career Pathways Endorsement****Room: ACEC 2200**

Presenters: Dr. Meagan Mitchell, Education Systems Center
Steve Thompson, College of DuPage

As post-secondary education gets more expensive, students and families are utilizing dual credit programs through local high schools and community colleges to jumpstart the college experience. New legislation, the Post-Secondary and Workplace Readiness Act, will have greater impact on Illinois students' ability to prepare for college and career. Presenters will discuss current legislation and impacts of that legislation on high school graduation requirements and college degree attainment.

 Keeping Our Fire Alive -- How WE Persevere: Doing What We Love in the Face of Curricular Challenges**Room: ACEC 2210**

Presenters: Carolyn Kinsella, Association of Illinois School Library Educators
Nicole Bolek, Minooka Community High School
Dr. Brandon Thornton, Bloomington High School

Across the United States, the education landscape as we know it has faced challenges such as book bans, restrictions on what can or cannot be taught in the classroom, and changes to the DEI landscape. This panel seeks to identify ways we can forge ahead in the face of these demands - without sacrificing our own mental health.

 Hot Button Issues for All Educators – Chat GPT/AI: Heart Healthy or Heart Attack?**Room: ACEC 2204/2205**

Presenters: Brooke Morentz, College of DuPage
Harry Bodell, Highland Community College
Brandon Wood, College of DuPage

This discussion panel will delve into the core of Chat GPT, exploring both the positive and negative aspects of the emerging world of content-oriented AI. Expect to get to the heart of the good, the bad, and the ugly of this technology.

3:30 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Session 4 - Continued

Friday

🌍 Hot Topics – Stronger Together: Embracing Diversity and Fostering Inclusion

Room: ACEC 2206-2207

Presenters: Lauren Morgan, College of DuPage, Retired
Wanda Teddy, Antioch Community High School
Devin Chambers, College of DuPage

A panel discussion on empowering faculty representation, equity, and cultivating diverse perspectives in academia for a more vibrant and inclusive educational ecosystem.

5:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

President's Reception

Friday



Room: Evergreen Room – Holiday Inn, Normal, Illinois

Join Heather Danek, the 2023-2024 President, at this fun reception. Enjoy the finger foods, cash bar, conversation, and karaoke beginning at 5:30 p.m. You could also head out to one of Blo-No's tasty local restaurants for dinner on your own and come back for the fun at this reception. If you need a dining recommendation, check out the list at the registration table in the Astroth Community Education Center. Be sure to be back to the Evergreen Room at the Holiday Inn by 7:30 p.m. for the presentation of the Connie Link Outstanding Mentorship Award. Brain BashTeam Trivia will begin at 7:45!

Saturday, September 16, 2023

7:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Registration

Room: 2nd Floor Lobby Astroth Community Education Center (ACEC)

Heartland Community College

If you are attending Saturday only, you may pick up your convention badge and drop off materials for the book and materials exchange. If you are a high school teacher, you may also register for professional development hours.

7:30 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. – Light Breakfast; New Member (Saturday arrivals) Orientation (8:15 a.m.); Saturday Announcements (8:30 a.m.)

Room: ACEC 2101/2102

Coffee and light breakfast items will be ready for Saturday morning attendees. At 8:30 a.m., convention planners will announce any last-minute program changes or useful information to help you get the most out of Saturday's events.

9:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. Session 5 Saturday

Hot Button Issues for All Educators – Small Teaching: Little Adaptations to Change the Beating Heart of Your Classroom

Room: ACEC 2100

Presenters: Sunny Serres, Harold Washington College
 Isaiah Carrington, William Rainey Harper College
 Bill Lucio, William Rainey Harper College
 Christy Carter, Oakton Community College

James Lang's insightful book, *Small Teaching*, introduced the educational world to the immense impact that small ideas can have in the classroom. It's truly remarkable how a slight modification to our teaching approach can significantly benefit our students. Panelists will be sharing their own small yet effective teaching techniques that have yielded remarkable results.

9:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

Session 5 - Continued

Saturday

♥ For the Love of Teaching and Coaching – No More Blood, Sweat or Tears: Developing Effective Judges For Your Competitive Season

Room: ACEC 2204/2205

Presenters: Janine Stroemer, Prairie State College
Ken Carter, Glenwood High School
Andrea Gustafson, Morris Community High School

In a world of background checks and busy schedules, finding speech judges can be difficult. Finding competent judges can seem impossible. This session is designed around finding and training quality judges to give students effective feedback. Let's put an end to "Good Job, Tough Round. 6"!

🔥 Keeping Our Fire Alive – Following Our Hearts: Bringing What We Love Into the Classroom

Room: ACEC 2206/2207

Presenters: Matt Marino, Minooka Community High School
Buford Stowers, Jacksonville High School
Tim Connors, Freeport High School

We spend so much of our waking life in the classroom with students. Why not share some of our outside interests, hobbies, and activities with them? This panel explores ways to bring our own interests into our lesson plans. Sharing what we love can give our classes a personal touch, foster stronger teacher-student relationships, and allow the instructor to further explore their passions.

🌍 Hot Topics – World of Language

Room: ACEC 2200

Presenters: Larry Modaff, Waubensee Valley Community College
Vicky Archos, Waubensee Valley Community College

Faculty from Waubensee Community College Communication, Mass Communication, Humanities, and English departments collaborated to create the film *"A World of Language...Waubensee Style."* which features 22 Waubensee Community College students and 13 employees sharing examples of language from their second (and sometimes third and fourth) languages. "English only" speakers share regionalisms, anachronisms, idioms, and gestures which are features of daily language in America, but may not be understood elsewhere in the world. Session attendees will view portions of the film, and panelists will facilitate discussion of the film's production as well as its use in intercultural, interpersonal, and humanities courses.

10:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.**Session 6****Saturday**** GIFTS – Great Ideas for Teaching: The Greatest Hits****Room: ACEC 2210**

Presenters: Marilee Applebee, Seneca Township High School
 Jody Littleton, Parkland College
 Max Green, Huntley High School
 Tim Connors, Freeport High School
 Kanoa Mulling, Homewood Flossmoor High School
 Laura Hilger, Marion Catholic High School
 Tyler Herron, Belleville West High School

If you have ever found yourself in a teaching rut and wish you had some new fresh ideas and techniques, GIFTS is the session you need. Presenters from across the State will share their Greatest Hits lessons. Each presenter will explain their activity in a 10-12 min segment. Attendees get tips for assessments and lessons that focus on a variety of topics you can use in the classroom on Monday. GIFTS from both the collegiate and secondary levels will be presented.

 Hot Topics – Defying Expectations and Challenging Our Perspectives: The Heart and Soul of Gen Z**Room: ACEC 2200**

Presenters: Julie Weishar, Parkland College
 Devin Chambers, College of DuPage

Generation Z or "Zoomers" are reliant on electronics, suffer more from loneliness and depression, and distrust higher education. This panel discussion explores best practices in teaching Gen Z.

 Hot Topics – Flames for Communication Education Advocacy in Illinois**Room: ACEC 2100**

Presenters: Lauren Morgan, College of DuPage, Emeritus
 Anthony Zoubek, East Denver High School, Denver, CO

A panel discussion on empowering faculty representation, equity, and cultivating diverse perspectives in academia for a more vibrant and inclusive educational ecosystem.

 For the Love of Theater -- All The World's A Stage: Learning from Community Theater**Room: ACEC 2206/2207**

Presenters: Britni Williams, Community Players Theater
 Megan McDillon, Community Players Theater
 Latrisha Green, Community Players Theater

The Community Players Theatre, a rich all-volunteer organization with 100 continuous seasons, thrives on creativity despite tight timelines and limited budgets. Join us as we explore the engaging power of theater, instilling confidence, teaching valuable communication skills, and bringing captivating productions to life.

12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Lunch/CPT Performance/ICTA Town Hall Saturday

Room: ACEC 2101/2102

Provide your insight on some big questions facing our discipline. Help ICTA set goals and outreach priorities with this workshop luncheon! Also, be there to welcome our newest winner of the Jerry Mathis Young Teacher Award. Be sure to indicate that you will be eating lunch with us when you register for the convention.

2:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. Session 7 Saturday

♥ For the Love of Teaching and Coaching – Debate: At the Heart of Forensics

Room: ACEC 2206/2207

Presenters: Brian Rohman, University High School
Nicole Kroepel, Belvidere North High School
Rebekah Hoffman, University High School
Carl Schwarz, Schaumburg High School

At the June 2023 IHSA Board Meeting, the IHSA Board of Directors voted to discontinue the Debate State Championship for the 2023-2024 academic year. Debate is where forensics started, and a state level championship is necessary for existing programs to continue as well as for new programs to flourish. Panelists will discuss strategies for how to start a program in your school as well as provide a comprehensive overview of how to get your school involved with the asynchronous Pro Con Debate Challenge event to help the debate state tournament get 80 schools involved to advocate to the IHSA to reinstate the Debate State Championship moving forward.

**🔥 Keeping Our Fire Alive – Labours of Love: From Performer to Profession
Student Performance Panel Part 1**

Room: ACEC 2200

Presenters: Mycah Butler, Illinois State University
Doniven Hill-Bush, Illinois State University

Many students who were once a part of forensics and performing arts desire to pursue a career in performance. Transforming a passion into real-world experiences can be both exhilarating and fulfilling. This panel aims to explore how individuals transitioned from being performers to professionals. During this session, new coaches and their students will showcase a glimpse of the coaching process.

2:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.**Session 7 - Continued****Saturday****🔥 Keeping Our Fire Alive – Crushing on Books: A Book Club Where You Don't Have to Read the Book****Room: ACEC 2204-2205**

Presenters: Natasha Casey, Lincoln Land Community College
 Marilee Applebee, Seneca Township High School
 Tyler Herron, Belleville West High School

Books are remarkable vehicles that can inspire us, terrify us, inform us, entertain us, and allow us to escape. Who we are is so often forged by what we read - it may often influence what we say or write. Our panelists will share the works that have inspired them and hope you'll share a book that has inspired you, too!

🎁 GIFTS – Great Ideas for Teaching – TechTools: The Pulse of the 21st Century Classroom**Room: ACEC 2210**

Presenters: Bonnie Gabel, McHenry County College
 Ken Carter, Glenwood High School
 Bill Lucio, William Rainey Harper College
 Susan Bookless, Galena High School
 Tyler Poteet, The Power of Public Speaking

In this panel discussion, we will detail different technology tools that can be used by communication teachers to improve their course construction. We will examine these tools in depth and explore how to incorporate them into the curriculum to create a more engaging and interactive learning experience for students. By utilizing these ideas, communication teachers can stay current with the latest trends and techniques in the field and also create a more dynamic and effective classroom environment. Let's delve into the heart of technology that can enhance communication education!



Prairie State College

Communication Department

Prairie State College is proud to host
 Illinois Communication and Theatre
 Association's Central Office.

Illinois Communication and Theatre Association

 Prairie State College
 202 South Halsted Street
 Chicago Heights, Illinois 60411

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Session 8

Saturday

 **Hot Button Issues for All Educators – Relieving the Pressure of the Distracted Student: Strategies for Understanding and Motivating Today’s Disengaged Student.**

Room: ACEC 2204-2205

Panel Chair: Jeff Przybylo, Harper College

Presenters: Margaret Bilos, Harper College
 Rocky Roque, University of Illinois Chicago
 Becca Liberatore, Seneca Township High School
 Buford Stowers, Jacksonville High School

A panel discussion around the concepts in the book *Distracted* by James Lang, including reasons why students are more distracted today than ever before and strategies for getting them engaged in classroom learning. Are our students distracted or are we just not holding their attention?

 **Keeping Our Fire Alive – Labours of Love: From Words to The World**

Student Performance Panel-Part 2

Room: ACEC 2200

Panel Chairs: Janine Stroemer, Prairie State College
 Brian Bohr, Elgin Community College

Presenters: Jeremiah Boyd-Johnson, University of Miami School of Law
 Onyinye Udeoga, Harvard University
 Brynn Brancamp, Elgin Community College

When asked, forensics and performing arts instructors often report that their favorite part of the job is nurturing student performance. This performance-oriented panel will showcase student work and feature talkbacks with students about their process.

 **Hot Topics – Teaching From the Heart: The Role of Emotional Expression in Classroom Instruction**

Room: ACEC 2206/2207

Presenters: Pat Idzik, John A. Logan College
 Cornelius Fair, John A. Logan College
 Anthony Zarinana, John A. Logan College
 Philip Brewer, John A. Logan College
 Thomas Chandler, John A. Logan College

As educators, we have long been guided by the principles of neutrality and appropriateness in the classroom, striving to create an environment that remains impartial and objective. In this panel, we aim to shed light on an alternative approach—pushing instructors to employ grief, deception, mourning, and outrage experienced in their lived and learned lives as a catalyst for heartfelt and passionate pedagogical lessons in the classroom.

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Session 8 - Continued Saturday

🌐 Hot Topics – Strengthening the Heart of ICTA: Long-Range Planning

Room: ACEC 2100

Presenters: Dana Trunnell, Prairie State College
 Kacy Stevens, College of DuPage
 Julie Weishar, Parkland College
 Janine Stroemer, Prairie State College

Join ICTA President, Dana Trunnell, and past-presidents Kacy Abeln, Lauren Morgan, and Julie Weishar to discuss ICTA's long-range plan and where the organization should be headed in the 21st Century.

4:45 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. Closing Session Saturday

Room: ACEC 2101/2102

Final announcements, raffle prizes, silent auction winners, etc.

6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Destihl Brewery Tour and Dinner Saturday

Destihl Beer Hall – 1200 Greenbriar Drive, Normal, IL

Join ICTA friends, old and new, for a tour of this local hot spot, Destihl Brewery. Then stick around for dinner, drinks, and live music on a beautiful autumn night. Be sure to pre-register for this event and your \$10 tour fee can be prepaid in cash or through Zelle.

Sunday, September 17, 2023

10:00 a.m. - ?? Golf a Round with the ICTA President Sunday

Highland Park Golf Course 1613 Main Street Bloomington, IL

Before heading home from the Convention, join ICTA 2023 President, Heather Danek, for a round of 9 holes (or 18 holes, or what the heck, let's play all day!) at Highland Park Golf Course in Bloomington, Illinois. \$30 for 9 holes and a cart. Text Heather at 815-325-8557 to get in on a foursome.

Join us this summer and prepare for Fall 2024 Competition!

SUMMER Speech Camp

July 8 to July 18, 2024

Monday - Thursday | 1:15-5:15 p.m. | Cost \$300

High School – Varsity and Novice

Week 1

Interpretation

- Finding Material
- Cutting Material
- Discovering Delivery Advantages

Public Speaking

- Generating Ideas and Humor
- Citing Sources

Week 2

- Practicing, Polishing, Performing
- Performance with Awards

For more information go to prairiestate.edu/speechcamp or

Joshua Green at (708) 709-2958, office: 2180, email: jgreen18@prairiestate.edu

Dana Trunnell at (708) 709-3798, office: 2185, email: dtrunnell@prairiestate.edu



202 S. Halsted St. | Chicago Heights, IL 60411 | (708) 709-3500 | prairiestate.edu

ICTA PAST PRESIDENTS

1930 – 31	W.P. Sandford, University of Illinois
1932	Ralph Dennis, Northwestern University
1933	Fed S. Sorensen, Illinois State Normal University
1934 – 35	G.W. Campbell, Northern Illinois State Teachers
1936	Glenn Foss, Eastern Illinois State Teachers
1937 – 38	Mary Blackburn, Granite City High School
1939	John Shaver, Des Plaines-Park Ridge High School
1940	Roberta Poos, Eastern Illinois State Teachers
1941	James D. McBurney, Eastern Illinois State Teachers
1942 – 45	F.L.D. Holmes, Illinois State Normal State Teachers
1946	Karl Robinson, Northwestern University
1947	Frank Tomlinson, Lake Forest College
1948	William O'Connell, Northern Illinois University
1949	Marion Stuart, Champaign High School
1950	L.E. Norton, Bradley University
1951	Mary E. Williams, Oak Park Schools
1952	Wayne Thompson, University of Illinois Chicago
1953	Clarence Nystrom, Wheaton College
1954	Ivan L. Rehn, Lyons Township High School
1955	Halbert E. Gulley, University of Illinois
1956	Melba Wixom, Waukegan Township High School
1957	Paul Hunsinger, Southern Illinois University
1958	Jeanette Lloyd, Freeport High School
1959	G. Bradford Barber, Illinois State University
1960	Bob F. Johnston, Homewood-Flossmoor High School
1961	Ralph A Micken, Southern Illinois University
1962	Earl R. Davis, Thornton Fractional South High School
1963	Marie Robinson, Illinois Wesleyan University
1964	Ralph Lane, Glenbrook North High School
1965	Charlotte Lee, Northwestern University
1966	Edith Harrod, Pekin Community High School
1967	Charles A. White, Illinois State University
1968	William E. Sanders, New Trier West High School
1969	Marvin Kleinau, Southern Illinois University
1970	Wanda Mitchell, Evanston High School
1971	Donald Marine, Illinois Central College
1972	Richard Hunsaker, Belleville West High School
1973	E. Neal Claussen, Bradley University
1974	John Duffin, Ottawa Township High School
1975	Clyde Fairies, Western Illinois University
1976	Douglas R. Springer, Pekin Community High School
1977	Don Morlan, University of Dayton/Eastern Illinois University
1978 – 79	Maxine Joyce, Macomb High School
1980	W. "Bud" Williams, Wheaton North High School
1981	George Tuttle, Illinois State University

1982 Thomas B. McClain, New Trier East High School
1983 Phillip A. Gray, Northern Illinois University
1984 Paul J. Haywood, Homewood-Flossmoor High School
1985 Jerry Mathis, Sauk Valley College
1986 Don R. Rourke, Crystal Lake Central High School
1987 Marion Kleinau, Southern Illinois University
1988 John B. Davis, Warren Township High School
1989 David Arnold, Rock Valley College
1990 Connie Link, Heyworth High School
1991 William Semlak, Illinois State University
1992 Joseph Henry Rust, Rend Lake College
1993 Deb Woodard, Warren Township High School
1994 Jan Heiteen, Downers Grove South High School
1995 Ken Hawkinson, Western Illinois University
1996 Morris Snively, Belleville East High School
1997 Elighie Wilson III, Millikin University
1998 Lauren Morgan, Normal Community - College of DuPage
1999 Barbara I. Hall, University of Illinois
2000 Allan Kimball, Southeastern Illinois College
2001 Tom Pace, Southern Illinois University
2002 Carol Harms, Belleville East High School
2003 Tina Winings, Charleston High School
2004 Douglas K. Jennings, Illinois State University
2005 Jane Bailey, Waterloo High School
2006 Ed Schwarz, Prairie State College
2007 B.J. Lawrence, Bradley University
2008 Ed Jodlowski, Lincoln Community High School
2009 Eric Ewan, Pekin Community High School
2010 Jeff Przybylo, Harper College
2011 Dave Naze, Prairie State College
2012 Ann Witting, Thornton Fractional South High School
2013 Judy Santacaterina, Northern Illinois University
2014 Ellie Marvin, Normal West High School
2015 Kevin Long, Harper College
2016 Adam Jenkins, Belleville West High School
2017 Kacy Abeln, College of DuPage
2018 Julie Weishar, Parkland Community College
2019 Lisa Stout, Washington Community High School
2020 Brian Rohman, University High School
2021 Bryan Asbury, Illinois Central College
2022 Janine Stroemer, Homewood-Flossmoor High School
2023 Dana Trunnell, Prairie State College

W. P. SANDFORD AWARD

Sandford served as President of the Illinois Speech and Theatre Association in 1930 and 1931. He was a Professor of English and Rhetoric at the University of Illinois at Champaign/Urbana. Sandford published numerous scholarly articles in a variety of journals, including the Quarterly Journal of Speech throughout the 1930s and 1940s. The Sandford award is given in recognition of exceptional service to the Association over an extended period of years and significant contributions to the field of speech and theatre.

Pre-1971: Mary Blackburn, Martin Holcomb, F.L.D. Holmes, Clara K. Mawhinney, Clarence Nystrom, Ian Rehn, Roberta Poos.

1971	G. Bradford Barber, Jessie Frederick, & Ruth Yates	1996	Elizabeth Faries
1972	E. Dorothy Peterson	1997	E. Neal Claussen
1973	Kenneth Burns, Earl Davis, Wanda B. Mitchell, & C. Horton Talley	1998	Douglas R. Springer
1974	Paul Crawford & Charlotte Lee	1999	John B. Davis
1975	Ralph Micken, Halbert Gulley, & L.E. Norton	2000	Morris Snively
1976	Birdine Groshong, R.P. Hibbs, Marion Kleinau, & Margaret Wood	2001	Connie Link
1977	Carl Dallinger	2002	Jan Heiteen
1978	Jeanette Lloyd	2003	Deb Woodard
1979	Margaret Crowley	2004	Robert Neuleib
1980	Marie J. Robinson	2005	Douglas K. Jennings
1981	Margaret Cadle	2006	Craig W. Cutbirth
1982	Ralph Lane	2007	Ken Hawkinson
1983	Lawrence E. Connolly	2008	Henry Hertz
1984	Richard A. King	2009	Betty Jane Lawrence
1985	Phillip Decker	2010	Carol Harms
1986	Mina Halliday	2011	Allan Kimball
1987	Maxine Joyce	2012	Tom Pace
1988	Adrian Frana, George Tuttle	2013	Elighie Wilson, Tina Winings
1989	Marvin Kleinau	2014	Eric Ewan
1990	Clyde Faries	2015	Judy Santacanterina
1991	John Duffin	2016	Lauren Morgen
1992	Kenneth E. Anderson	2017	Ed Jodlowski
1993	Richard Hunsaker	2018	Ed Schwarz
1994	Jerry Mathis	2019	No award given
1995	Phillip Gray	2020	No award given
		2021	No award given
		2022	Jeff Przybylo
		2023	Lisa Stout

2023 SANDFORD Award Winner

Lisa Stout



Lisa earned her BA in English Education, with a double minor in Speech and Drama, at Western Illinois University in 1995. In 2008, she earned an MA in English from Bradley University. After student teaching at Canton High School, she began her teaching career teaching speech and English at Limestone Community High School in the fall of 1996. There, she also coached the speech team, first as an assistant, later as head coach. After three years, in the fall of 1999, she began teaching Speech and Drama at Pekin Community High School. It was at PCHS that she really began to grow as a speech coach, under the tutelage of Eric Ewan, serving as one of his assistants. At PCHS, she also directed the fall and spring plays and served as theatre manager. One thing Lisa is incredibly proud of is bringing musicals back to PCHS, which happened later in her tenure at the school.

In the fall of 2008, Lisa moved to Washington Community High School, and she has been there ever since. At WCHS, Lisa has taught several English, speech, and drama classes, as well as dual credit composition and dual credit theatre. Lisa also built up the WCHS speech team from a tiny team with just a handful of students to a larger, more competitive team that regularly has IHSA state qualifiers, state finalists, and a State Champion in 2019. At WCHS, Lisa took over the theatre program in 2012 and currently directs the fall musical and spring play. She is also the Drama Club sponsor.

Throughout the years, Lisa has mentored many student teachers as well as assistant speech coaches and student directors. She has also served on countless boards and committees, including the IHSA Speech State Committee as well as the Speech Advisory Committee. In her rare free time, she has served as an adjunct faculty member at Bradley University, teaching English 101 and Communication 103. She has been a member of ICTA for the majority of her career. She has served on the ICTA Board of Directors twice, first as treasurer, and more recently, she was part of the ICTA Executive Board presidential rotation, serving as convention planner in 2018. She is currently an ICTA Past President.

Lisa lives in Goodfield with her husband, Jim, whom she met backstage at Peoria Players Theatre in the late 1990s. She enjoys cooking, reading, traveling, and trivia. She recently appeared on-stage in *Titanic the Musical*, directed by her dear friend Eric Ewan, at Corn Stock Theatre in Peoria, her first on-stage appearance since 2012. She loves her chosen career, and considers it a joy and a privilege to be a teacher, a coach, a director, a colleague, a mentor, a friend, and finally, Mama Stout to her kids.

EDITH MARJORIE HARROD AWARD

Edith served as President of the Illinois Speech and Theatre Association in 1966, and was a member of the Illinois Board of Education for five years. She received her B.A. degree from Eureka College in 1943, and her M.A. degree from the University of Iowa in 1949. She completed additional graduate study at Northwestern University in Evanston and the University of Minnesota. She taught Drama and English at Eureka High School from 1943 to 1951 before teaching Drama at Pekin Community High School from 1951 to 1971. She was an Associate Professor of Creative Arts at Illinois Central College where she taught Speech and Drama until her death in 1976. At Illinois Central College she created an interdisciplinary course in the humanities including art, drama, music and philosophy. In 1961, she was awarded the John Hay Fellowship in Humanities. She attended symposia on theater at Stratford, Ontario, Canada, in 1965, 1966 and 1968, studying with Tyrone Guthrie, who helped establish the Shakespeare Festival there, and who founded the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis. She was director of Broadway Theater League and Cornstock Theater. She directed plays for Cornstock Theater and at Illinois Central College directed Readers' Theater and Plays for Living. The Harrod award is In recognition of distinguished service to the Association and outstanding achievement in the profession.

1978	Philip Decker, Richard Hunsaker, William E. Sanders	2001	Tom Sweeney
1979	Mina Halliday	2002	Tom Pace & Douglas R. Springer
1980	No award given	2003	Timothy Sweeney
1981	Maxine Joyce	2004	Jim Seamon
1982	L.E. Norton	2005	Keith Sanders & Elighie Wilson
1983	Earl Davis	2006	Tina Winings
1984	Marvin Kleinau	2007	William R. Kirksey
1985	John Duffin	2008	Jan Heiteen
1986	Jerry Mathis	2009	Eric Ewan
1987	Philip Gray	2010	Lauren Morgan
1988	Barry Kautz	2011	Jeff Przybylo
1989	E. Neal Claussen	2012	Reddy Royce Wilson
1990	Paul Haywood	2013	Pam Kimball
1991	John Davis	2014	Ed Jodlowski
1992	Marjorie Risser	2015	Doug Jennings
1993	James Jewell	2016	Ellie Marvin
1994	Connie Link	2017	Adam Jenkins
1995	Joseph Rust	2018	No Award Given
1996	Thomas B. McClain	2019	Anna Wright
1997	Morris Snively	2020	No award given
1998	Robert Neuleib	2021	Julie Weishar
1999	Marion Kleinau	2022	Heather Danek & Anthony Zoubek
2000	Kenneth Anderson	2023	Sunny Serres

2023 Edith Marjorie Harrod Award Winner Sunny Serres



After graduating from Bradley University in 1999, Sunny Serres attended graduate school at Northern Illinois University in 2007. She is an example of how anyone can change the course of their life with one decision. And that decision led her to a tenure-track position at Harold Washington College in 2011. If it weren't for Judy Santacaterina saying, "Yes, I want Sunny to be a graduate assistant for the speech team at NIU" her trajectory may have been different.

Mentored by the late Kathryn Nash, Sunny started a speech team at Harold Washington, but it was short-lived. Given her passion for forensics, when Vance Pierce was tasked with leading the speech team at University of Illinois at Chicago, she immediately volunteered to assist. To say she learned a lot from Kathy and Vance while working with them would be an understatement. With their guidance, she was able to grow as a coach and professor. However, even before her time at Harold Washington, many in the speech community complimented her on her balloting and her focus on the student experience, no matter what team they competed for.

Sunny is a newly minted chair of the English, Speech, Theater, and Journalism department. Before taking on the role as chair, she was speech coordinator from 2017-2020. She is incredibly proud of the adjunct faculty she has hired and how dedicated they are to our students. As coordinator, she also ran the Sydney R. Daniels Oratorical Festival for Black History Month.

As a member of ICTA, she was brought on the board by Lauren Morgan as the Higher Education Chair. She hopes to continue to positively contribute to ICTA in meaningful ways, and especially during Convention 2024!

Sunny would like to thank her family for their support when she made this life-changing decision. She would also like to thank all of her colleagues who have given her a piece of advice, lent a helping hand, or shared ideas.

CONNIE LINK OUTSTANDING MENTORSHIP AWARD

The Connie Link Outstanding Mentorship Award is named in memory of long-standing member and past president Connie Link. The award is given to a teacher currently teaching (or retired) in Illinois who has taught speech, theatre, and/or English for a significant length of time (10 years or more). The qualifications for this award include distinguished service to the association and outstanding achievement in the profession, especially in mentorship of teachers and/or speech/theatre coaches and directors. This award recognizes outstanding mentorship toward new and current ICTA members, assistance in recruitment of new members to the organization and outreach to past ICTA members who are no longer active in the organization. The award recipient must have been an active member of ICTA for at least 5 years.

2013	Doug Jennings, Illinois State University
2014	Jan Heiteen, Downers Grove South High School
2015	Marvin Kleinau & Marion Kleinau, Southern Illinois University,
2016	Kenny Knox, Spoon River Valley High School
2017	Richard Hunsacker, McKendree University
2018	Tina Winings, Charleston High School
2019	Elighie Wilson, Prairie State College
2020	No award given
2021	No award given
2022	Janine Stroemer, Homewood-Flossmoor High School
2023	Judy Santacaterina, Northern Illinois University

2023 Connie Link Award Winner Judy Santacaterina



Judy Santacaterina received her Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in Communication Education from Northern Illinois University. She has taught courses at the junior high, high school, community college, and university level. For the past 43 years, she has served as a member of the NIU Forensics coaching staff as a graduate assistant, Director of Individual Events, and Acting Director of Forensics.

She has been a member of ICTA since 1979, was the 2012 Convention keynote speaker, and served on the Executive Board as Secretary (1984) and President (2013.) She developed NIU's High School summer camp and served as the Director until 2014. She has been honored for her coaching and teaching by Bradley University, University of Wisconsin Eau Claire, St. Cloud State University, Illinois Intercollegiate Forensics Association, and the American Forensics Association. In 2015 she was honored with ICTA's W.P. Sanford Award. She has coached numerous state and national finalists, including 15 Interstate Orators.

She is most proud of the number of NIU alumni that have gone on to careers in teaching. "I have been so fortunate and truly blessed. Throughout my career, I was inspired and mentored by not only my amazing teachers, but by my amazing students as well."

JERRY MATHIS NEW TEACHER AWARD

Jerry served as President of the Illinois Speech and Theatre Association in 1985 and was a Professor of Speech and Theater at Sauk Valley College. He coached individual events for a while, but was much more active in oral interpretation festival competitions. Mathis published and presented several papers on oral interpretation at national conferences. He directed numerous outstanding theater productions during his tenure at Sauk Valley College. An endowed scholarship in his name has been established at Sauk Valley College. Shortly after his death, the College also built a new state of the art theater and named it the Jerry Mathis Theater. He won several outstanding teaching awards at Sauk Valley College and was recognized nationally as an outstanding educator. The Mathis Award is presented to a current Illinois teacher who has taught five or fewer years in the field of communication or theatre and who has demonstrated outstanding potential for success in the discipline.

1996	Rebecca Gray, Elk Grove Community High School
1997	Jennifer Zimmerman, Honnegah High School
1998	Linda Koop, Western Illinois University
1999	No award given
2000	Jennifer Svehla, Belleville East High School
2001	Amy Vokac, Cary-Grove High School
2002	Carrie Schreiber, Lincoln High School
2003	Lazaro Lopez, John Hersey High School
2004	Adam Jenkins, Belleville West High School
2005	Chelsea Cheatham, Lincoln Community High School
2006	Anna Oxboro, Washington High School
2007	Mark Adams, University High School
2008	No award given
2009	Dave Naze, Prairie State College
2010	Michael Greenstein, Glenbrook North High School
2011	Anthony Zoubek, Dundee-Crown High School/Bartlett High School
2012	Richard G. Jones, Eastern Illinois University
2013	Kacy Abeln, Kishwaukee College
2014	Jessica Vallaincourt, Elgin High School
2015	Anna Wright, Illinois State University
2016	Justin Matkovich, Downers Grove South High School
2017	Brian Rohman, University High School
2018	Bryan Asbury, Illinois Central College
2019	No award given
2020	No award given
2021	Kanoa Mulling, Homewood-Flossmoor High School
2022	Bill Lucio, Harper College
2023	Tyler Herron, Belleville West High School

2023 Jerry Mathis New Teacher Award Winner

Tyler Herron



Tyler Herron is an English Teacher, Assistant Speech Coach, and Contest Drama technical director at Belleville West High School in Belleville, IL. Entering his fourth year of education, he teaches both developing and struggling freshman readers as well as traditional senior-level instruction. As a teacher, he also sponsors the senior class and oversees their involvement with Homecoming, as well as emceeing the school's Homecoming Royalty and Prom Royalty ceremonies. As a novice coach, he has championed a State-winning Humorous Duet performance and has coached two State-finaling Performances in the Round. In addition, nationally, he has coached a Top 30 Duo Interpretation. He is excited to be coaching the activities that he once participated in as a student, and he is even more excited to say that he is now coaching and collaborating with the same people that ignited his love for and dedication to speech and theatre.

L. E. NORTON HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENT AWARD

Norton served as President of the Illinois Speech and Theatre Association in 1950. He spent his career at Bradley University where he was a Professor of Speech and served as the Director of Forensics. His status among speech educators is legendary. Norton was responsible for inventing many of the events we compete in today, including duo interpretation and informative speaking. While at Bradley, he founded Pi Kappa Delta, the honorary speech fraternity. The annual Bradley University Individual Events Invitational is named in his honor and is considered one of the most prestigious college individual events tournaments in the nation. He also coached the national championship GE College Bowl Team in 1969. This award is presented to an outstanding college major in speech or theatre who has made significant contributions to the college, community and discipline.

1995	Ari Fisz, University of Illinois
1996	Ann O'Connell
1997	Adam Jenkins, McKendree College
1998	No award presented
1999	Angela Townley, Illinois State University
2000	Chad Kaffer, McKendree College
2001	No award given
2002	Kristen Linde, Illinois State University
2003	Jamie Hines, Illinois State University
2004	Mark Adams, Illinois State University
2005	Jennifer Shelton, Illinois State University
2006	Lindsay Sank, Illinois State University
2007	Christopher J. Schmid, Illinois State University
2008	Christine Doman, Illinois State University
2009	April Lowry, Illinois State University
2010	Anna Wright, Illinois State University
2011	Camille Yameen, Bradley University & Scott Pyle, Illinois State University
2012	Brian Rohman, Illinois State & Lisa Roth, Northern Illinois
2013	Kaybee Brown, Bradley & Chandler Johnson, Illinois State
2014	Clinton Brown, Eastern Illinois University
2015	Marques Brown, Eastern Illinois & Yanelly Villegas, Northern Illinois
2016	Emily Vajjala, Eastern Illinois & Southern Illinois University-Carbondale
2017	Allison Metz, Illinois State University
2018	Matt DuPuis, Northern Illinois University
2019	Harry Bodell, Highland Community College
2020	No award given
2021	Starr Lee, Northern Illinois University
2022	Lavontae Morrow, University of Illinois Chicago
2023	Brenna Bretzinger

2023 L.E. Norton Higher Education Student Award Winner

Brenna Bretzinger



In May, Brenna Bretzinger graduated from Northern Illinois University with High Honors receiving her Bachelor of Science with a double major in Actuarial Science and Applied Mathematics along with two minors in English and History. After joining NIU Forensics, with no prior experience and a fear of public speaking, Brenna explains that she found a passionate and supportive community who fostered her love of public speaking and communication. She served as both President and Treasurer of NIU Forensics and Sigma Tau Delta Honorary, and as editor in Chief for the Stonehouse Academic Journal. She is the recipient of numerous speaking awards including her National Championship in Informative Speaking. In addition to her participation in a wide range of co-curricular activities, she participates in a number of volunteer projects including Safe Passage, Huskie Food Pantry, Feed my Starving Children, and Stemfest. This fall, she begins her graduate program in Communication Studies at NIU where she will teach a section of the basic course and assist in the forensics program. Her goal is to teach communication and provide students the tools to create safe spaces to speak their mind, to never feel silenced, and to share their voice. She is excited to be at her first professional Communication convention and is looking forward to becoming an active member of the Illinois Communication and Theater Association.

RICHARD A. HUNSAKER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT AWARD

Hunsaker served as President of the Illinois Speech & Theatre Association in 1972. He built a distinguished 30-year career teaching speech, drama, and debate at Belleville West High School. His exemplary teaching, coaching, and communication skills brought him national recognition as an outstanding Illinois educator. His impact on students has been long-standing, and the success of his students in speech and debate led to many state championships. He has written and published texts on listening and verbal communication. Upon his retirement from Belleville West High School, he started a new career as a college professor and speech and debate coach at McKendree College. The Hunsaker award is given to a high school student who has been active in speech and/or theatre activities and who has made significant contributions to the community and school.

1989	Ben Moore, Heyworth High School
1990	Aaron Spaid, Heyworth High School
1991	Allen Cook, Downers Grove South High School
1992	Christopher Daley, Belleville West High School
1993	No Award Given
1994	Ron Provine, Paxton-Buckley-Loda High School
1995	Ryan Mellske, Heyworth High School
1996	No award given
1997	Bhavesh Patel, DuQuoin High School
1998	Tanja Ruch, Normal Community High School
1999	Jeff Hemmer, Belleville East High School
2000	Eric A. Gehrie, New Trier High School
2001	Elizabeth Holt, University High School
2002	Chris Appuhn, Fulton High School
2003	Carlisle Wallace, Heyworth High School
2004	Andy Junk, Downers Grove South & Jacob Vial, Pontiac
2005	Kelly Hires, Downers Grove South High School
2006	Lindsey Boerma, Lincoln Community High School
2007	Ben Leddy, Charleston High School
2008	Kyle Akerman, Downers Grove South High School
2009	Leah Capranica, Glenwood Chatham High School
2010	A.J. Curry, Fremd High School
2011	Jay Daniels, Charleston High School
2012	Ryan Carrigan, Normal Community West High School
2013	Alison Ogunmokun, University High School
2014	Amy Daniels, Charleston High School
2015	Callen Brown, United Township High School
2016	Katie Mueller, Charleston High School
2017	Emily Hill, Huntley High School
2018	Emily Gibson, Glenbard West High School
2019	No award given
2020	Jaylon Muchison, Belleville West High School
2021	No award given
2022	Joyce Yang, Bartlett High School
2023	Pierce McDade, University High School

2023 Richard A. Hunsaker High School Student Award Winner

Pierce McDade



Pierce McDade, of Bloomington, Illinois, is an accomplished public speaker with interests in politics, economics, and the humanities. Throughout his high school experience, Pierce competed on the University High School Speech & Debate Team. His accomplishments include placing 4th at the 2021 National Speech and Debate Association National Tournament in Prepared Commentary, 3rd at the 2022 IHSA State Final in Impromptu Speaking, 2nd at the 2023 IHSA State Final in Extemporaneous Speaking, and winning the 2023 University of Kentucky Tournament of Champions in Extemporaneous Speaking. Additionally, Pierce took on many leadership positions in various clubs throughout his four years in high school including serving as Class President for three years and Student Body President for one year. Pierce is passionate about using communication to lead and serve others, with a focus on the people behind the topics he discusses. Pierce is attending Oxford College of Emory University, planning to major in Political Science and Economics.

Officer Slate Nominations

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Although Tim Connors is considered semi-retired, he is currently working on his 67th show at Freeport High School and eagerly preparing for his 31st IHSA Individual Events speech season. Tim taught at FHS for 33 years and along with his love of his family, (Wife Becky and sons, Ethan and Henry), he enjoys doing public address for sporting events, competing on a trivia team, and lives and dies every game with the Chicago Cubs. In 2018, Tim was extremely honored with the Outstanding Speech, Debate and Theatre Educator Award from the National Federation of State High Schools.



SECONDARY EDUCATION CHAIR

Andrea Gustafson is in her 27th year of teaching, with the past 20 years being at her alma mater, Morris Community High School. She teaches speech communication, theatre arts, English, and creative writing, as well as coaching Speech Team, directing the fall play and musical, advising Drama Club and serving as the National Honor Society sponsor. Andrea loves all things theatre, including acting, directing and seeing shows. In addition to theatre, she loves to travel and cheer on the Chicago White Sox, especially with her husband James and daughter Molly.



SECRETARY



Kanoa Mulling is an English Teacher, Speech Team Coach, and Group Interpretation Assistant Director at Homewood Flossmoor High School. Prior to joining the H-F staff, Kanoa spent two years at Payap University in Chiang Mai, Thailand, teaching Conversational English, Public Speaking, and Drama. In 2021, Kanoa won the ICTA Jerry Mathis Outstanding Young Teacher Award.

Kanoa was appointed to the ICTA board as secretary when that position opened last year, and he is running for election in that same position.

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT



For more than twenty-three years, Adam has taught all levels of English and speech communication classes at Belleville West High School. He is the speech & acting team head-coach and frosh one-act play director. He has previously served as the theatre program coordinator and even interim debate coach for a year.

Adam is a previous award winner of ICTA's Outstanding Young Teacher Award, as well as the Edith Harrod Award for outstanding service to the organization and profession. He attended his first ICTA convention as a college student in 1998 and has attended every convention since. In that time, he has served on the ICTA board as the membership/PR chair, two terms as treasurer, and the presidential rotation, for which he was the 2015 convention planner and ICTA President in 2015-16. Two years ago, he was appointed at convention to serve as Executive Vice President, which went unfilled during the pandemic year. He is now up for election for that same position.