

On behalf of the Illinois Communication and Theatre Association board and 2017 convention planning committee, I would like to invite you to join us at The Embassy Suites Riverfront Conference Center in East Peoria, Illinois for ICTA's eighty-seventh annual convention. The theme of our 2017 conference is, "Resilience!" We will be focusing on ways to recognize and build resilience skills in ourselves, our students, and our disciplines to become better, smarter, and stronger. Many familiar and valuable sessions will be offered; these include our GIFTS (Great Ideas for Teaching Students) sessions, new and experienced coaches workshop sessions, swap shop, and materials and book exchange. There will be a variety of panels and workshops for both higher ed. and secondary ed. theatre, communication, media, and forensics.

Hotel and registration information can be found online at <http://www.illinoiscta.org/> Please reserve your hotel room at the conference discount rate and register for the conference by September 6th. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at jweishar@parkland.edu

I am looking forward to seeing you all in September for an exciting conference!

Julie Weishar – President-elect and Convention Planner

Convention Highlights

Breakout Sessions (Higher Ed. and Secondary Ed.)

This year's convention will feature a variety of panels, workshops and presentations that will be applicable across ICTA disciplines. During most time slots, convention participants will be able to choose from a variety of sessions that allow you to connect with colleagues and gain new ideas and insights you can use in your classroom. The convention planning committee and board has worked hard to ensure that participants will have the opportunity to attend panels on communication instruction, theatre, coaching speech, and opportunities to discuss topics important to our disciplines in both higher education and secondary education.

Past Presidents' Reception

A new ICTA tradition you won't want to miss! Join us on Thursday evening starting at 8:30 p.m. to kick off convention with a meet/greet hosted by ICTA Past Presidents including Tina Winnings, Ellie Marvin, and Doug Jennings in the Embassy Suites lobby lounge and outdoor terrace overlooking the river. All attendees are invited. Meet colleagues old and new - raffle prizes included!

Inspirational “Wall” of Resilience

We would like to commemorate this year’s theme of “Resilience!” by building an inspirational wall of quotes and sayings that focus on resilience traits such as: courage, perseverance, determination, success etc. The purpose of the “wall” is to share it with colleagues and students to encourage, inspire, and build resilience traits. Help us build the “wall” of resilience by bringing your favorite quote or saying to contribute. Sticky Notes will be on hand for convention attendees to add a quote or saying anytime during convention.

“Important achievements require a clear focus, all-out effort, and a bottomless trunk full of strategies. Plus allies in learning.” – Carol Dweck

Top Submission Prize

Once again top submissions to the higher education interest group will be recognized at the convention. Top submissions will receive a certificate and a monetary award.

Electronic Script Exchange (Secondary Ed. Forensics)

For many years ICTA has sponsored a script exchange as one of our key services at convention. For the past several years, we have collected scripts electronically to share with interested members. All of those who would like to participate need to send an electronic copy of a performance ready script for prose, poetry, OD, HI, DI, HDA, DDA. Be sure to include specific publication information, as well. Scripts should be sent to Kevin Martin at kcm121299@comcast.net between NOW and October 4. The collected scripts will then be e-mailed to all who contributed. Feel free to share more than one script. Don’t miss your chance to share your expertise with colleagues and to find some great new material.

Electronic Swap Shop

The Swap Shop has been a highlight of ICTA for many years. Swap Shop participants email a lesson plan, article, activity, etc. for the classroom or extracurricular activities. Members who would like to participate should e-mail an activity, lesson plan, article, etc. to Kevin Martin at kcm121299@comcast.net please feel free to send more than one item; this is a great way to share your ideas and expertise with your peers and to get new ideas you can use in the classroom.

Book and Materials Exchange

Bring books or materials related to your discipline that you would like to contribute to the exchange table – take books or materials that interest you. A great way to pass along materials and books and find some new gems.

Food and Conversation

Your convention fee includes breakfast in the hotel on both days of the convention, luncheon on Friday, and the President's Reception on Friday evening. This year's president's reception will feature delectable appetizers and cool jazz. The reception will begin at 5:30 p.m. with dinner on your own afterwards.

Secondary Education Individual Events Coaching Workshops

A recurring feature of the ICTA convention is a popular series of workshops for coaches. Once again this year, we have workshops which include all 14 IHSA speech individual events. The focus of the workshop sessions is to help new coaches as well as experienced coaches with information and tips you can begin using this season. A session on Building and Maintaining a Team will kick off the Coaching Workshop on Friday afternoon, with several additional sessions on Saturday.

Milestones and Achievements.

Another highlight of the ICTA convention has been special recognition of accomplishments by our members at the Presidents' reception. We recognize members for awards won, special recognitions, upcoming retirements, etc. If you, or an ICTA member you know has had a milestone or achievement this year. Please send name, title of award (milestone, accomplishment, etc.), and a brief overview to Julie Weishar jweishar@parkland.edu or to Tina Winings (twinings@charleston.k12.il.us) by September 15. Also, send a picture, if you have one. We want to recognize our member's milestones and accomplishments!

Thursday: September 28, 2017

8:00-9:30 pm – Registration

Attendees may pick up convention program, schedule, and badge. Also, participants may drop off material for the book and materials exchange, and register for professional development credits

6:30 pm to 8:00 pm – ICTA Board Meeting and Dinner

8:30 pm to 10:30 pm – Past President' Reception

Join ICTA Past Presidents including Ellie Marvin, Tina Winnings and Doug Jennings for a meet and greet with colleagues old and new on the beautiful terrace overlooking the river. A great way to kick off convention – raffle prizes included!

Friday: September 29, 2017

7:00 am to 12:00 pm & 2:00 – 4:00 pm – Registration

Attendees may pick up convention program, schedule, and badge. Also, participants may drop off materials for the book and materials exchange, and register for professional development credits.

Breakfast – Hotel Lobby 7:00 – 8:00 am

A full hot breakfast is complementary for guests staying at the hotel. Attendees not staying at the hotel may request a ticket for breakfast at the registration booth prior to the start of the morning sessions.

Introductions and Opening Session 8:00 - 9:20 am

- 8:00 am New Members Welcome & Orientation – Find out how to maximize convention benefits, meet new people and find your way around ICTA.
- 8:15 am General Meeting announcements, introduction of Board Members and presentation of the Norton Award
- 8:30 am Opening Session - all attendees

Breakout Session 1: 9:30 - 10:20 am

Illinois High School Association Meeting with Susie Knoblauch

(Sponsor: Secondary Forensics)

Illinois High School Association representative, Susie Knoblauch, will address questions and concerns regarding current trends and rule changes in individual events as well as drama/group interp.

Communication Lesson Plans

(Sponsor: Communication Education)

Students from Illinois State University will share and present lesson plans aligned with the common core standards for use in the secondary classrooms.

Artmaking and/as/is Resilience

(Co-Sponsors: Theatre and Media)

This roundtable features a diversity of artists, from visual art to video, from live performance to humor, revealing how resilience manifests in their artwork and artistic process. Be inspired by the stories of how these artists find strength and courage in contemporary times, both for themselves and others.

Breakout Session 2: 10:30 - 11:20 am

Illinois High School Association I.E. Hot Topics

(Sponsor: Secondary Forensics)

Duo or Duets, POI or Poetry, Dec or no Dec? These are just some of the questions discussed at the spring IHSA advisory committee meeting. This session will survey the current pulse of the IHSA Speech I.E. Finals and solicit recommendations for potential rule changes, modification and events.

Resilient Pedagogy: How to Create Innovative and Effective Curricula, Instructional Strategies, Classroom Climates, and Assessments

(Sponsor: Higher Education)

Participants will learn to employ pedagogically informed strategies in the development of resilient, relevant, and dynamic curricula appropriate for diverse learners. Concepts to be discussed include: backward design, audience analysis and adaptation, universal design, and integrative learning.

Workshop - Devised Theatre: Creating Original Productions with Young Actors Pt. I

(Sponsor: Theatre)

Devised theatre is created collaboratively with an ensemble, and does not originate from a single script or writer. This workshop will explore an approach to creating an original performance piece with student actors. Creating theatre in this way can empower the participants to find rich, authentic ways to tell stories in their own words. Working from a starting point of recognizable source material, the ensemble will identify the necessary events to tell the story. This will provide a basis to explore the events through structured improvisation, and ultimately to shape what becomes a fully realized original production.

Breakout Session 3: 11:30 am - 12:20 am

Workshop - Devised Theatre: Creating Original Productions with Young Actors Pt. II

(Sponsor: Theatre)

The second part of this workshop continues to explore an approach to creating an original performance piece with student actors.

Methods of Modifying Speaking and Listening Assessments for Student IEP or 504 Plans

(Sponsor: Secondary Education)

With an increased importance and oversight of Individualized Education Plans (IEP) and enforcement of section 504 of the IDEA, general education teachers may find it difficult to know what they can do to be compliant with federal regulations. This panel brings together the legal requirements with application practice of making accommodations to speaking and listening assessments to ensure you are making informed decisions for your students.

The Forensics Camp Experience: What We Are Doing and Where We Should Go

(Sponsor: Higher Education Forensics)

There are numerous opportunities throughout Illinois for high school students to hone their skills at summer "camps" or "institutes". Each program offers their own unique approach. Panelist representing 4 year residential programs and 2 year commuter camps will present their perspectives and approach to this vital forensics experience. The panel will also include an all- important feedback discussion where teachers can provide valuable input regarding curriculum and outcomes for these programs

Troubling "Ally" as identity: Bolstering Resilience

(Sponsor: Higher Education)

Panelists discuss what it means to support our students and colleagues, as well as trouble the term "ally" in how it is currently understood/used.

Convention Luncheon and Awards 12:30 - 2:00 pm

This year's luncheon will include a business meeting and the presentation of the Herrod and Sanford awards.

Please notify Julie Weishar jweishar@parkland.edu of any special dietary needs by September 15.

Breakout Session 4: 2:15 - 3:00 pm

Interest Group Meetings – dialogue with colleagues about topics of interest

Higher Education – facilitated by Richard Jones

Secondary Education – facilitated by Kenny Knox and Brian Rohman

Retirees & those nearing retirement – facilitated by Doug Jennings and Doug Springer

Advocacy – facilitated by Lauren Morgan

Breakout Session 5: 3:10 - 4:00 pm

Experienced Coaches Workshop – Building and Maintaining a Team

(Sponsor: Secondary Education Forensics)

The “Monstrosity” of Brown Women in the Academy: A Call for Solidarity

(Sponsor: Higher Education)

This panel discussion seeks to call-in faculty to join the fight for inclusivity of all peoples in the academy by highlighting the structures of oppression as experienced by brown women faculty.

Uncovering the Rhetorical Veil

(Sponsor: Secondary Education)

In our current society, teenagers are bombarded with advertisements, commercial print, social media status updates, and heavily biased articles that influence the way they think, speak, write, and interact. In order for these young minds to become more critically aware, they need the skills to accurately analyze and evaluate persuasive techniques used within this media. This session is specifically geared toward benefiting any teacher that uses persuasive text/media for reading/writing in the classroom.

Teachers who attend will learn how to organize and scaffold a persuasion unit that focuses primarily on real-world contexts. More specifically, teachers will learn strategies to help students progress from identifying rhetorical appeals, to analyzing and evaluating them, and finally, to utilizing them in a cumulative project.

Breakout Session 6: 4:10 - 5:00 pm

Performing Culture and Identity

(Sponsor: Theatre)

This session features solo and collaborative performances of university students spending a semester studying a specific location where cultural performance takes place. From coffee houses to storytelling events to churches, these performance auto/ethnographies reveal the power of place, community, resilience, and resistance.

Recruitment – We Are All in This Together: A working Session to Produce Forensics Resilience in Illinois

(Sponsor: Higher Education Forensics)

Tuition costs are going up and one effect of such increases are dropping enrollments at Illinois colleges and universities. Many local high school students choose to attend school outside of the state because of such cost increases. This panel highlights current recruitment strategies and invites open discussion to explore how high school, 2 year colleges and 4 year institutions can work together to produce stronger recruitment.

GIFTS – Great Ideas for Teaching Students – Inclusion in the Classroom

Attendees move from table to table every eight to ten minutes visiting six or more presenters who offer classroom activities, assignments as well as tips for assessments and lessons that focus on inclusion in the classroom. GIFTS from both the collegiate and secondary levels will be presented.

New Member's Reception 5:15 – 5:45 p.m.

Members who are new to the organization are invited to meet in the hotel lobby for refreshments and a chance to connect with new colleagues prior to the President's Reception.

President's Reception 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Join us for a convention celebration where we will present awards, share milestones and achievements, renew relationships and create connections. All attendees are invited to this reception which features delectable appetizers with beverages available for purchase.

Dinner is on your own after the reception.

Saturday: September 30, 2017

Registration 7:30 - 9:30 am

Attendees may pick up convention program, schedule, and badge. Also, participants may drop off material for the book exchange, and register for professional development credits

Breakfast – Hotel Lobby 7:00 – 8:00 am

A full hot breakfast is complementary for guests staying at the hotel. Attendees not staying at the hotel may request a ticket for breakfast at the registration booth prior to the start of the morning sessions.

Saturday Opening Session 8:00 - 8:50 am

- 8:00 am New Members Welcome & Orientation – Find out how to maximize convention benefits, meet new people and find your way around ICTA.
- 8:15 am Convention address and announcements and presentation of the Top Panel Award

Breakout Session 7: 9:00 - 9:50 am

Finishing Strong: Developing Classroom Resilience and Motivation

(Sponsor: Higher Education)

This panel explores ways for instructors to create resilience in the classroom, including ideas for motivating instructors and students to avoid burnout and finish the semester strong.

Creating a Catalog for Scenic Inventory

(Sponsor: Theatre)

There will be a discussion on the best formatting for an online catalog, the benefits of such a catalog, and the issues with keeping all information current - particularly in a setting where multiple personnel have access to and are in charge of the inventory. Attendees will be presented with different approaches and techniques to organizing an existing scenic inventory. There will be demonstrations of the benefits to certain catalog styles and their accompanying paperwork. Challenges such as item modifications and multiple personnel access will be explored.

Incorporating Communication Across the Curriculum

(Sponsor: Secondary Education)

Writing across the curriculum has dominated the secondary discourse for the past decade. With the adoption of the new Illinois Learning Standards, communication, speaking, and listening are expected to be taught across the curriculum. This panel provides insight and practical experience to include communication assessments across the curriculum.

Experienced Coaches Workshop: Making Scripted Events Resilient to Changes in Publishing

(Sponsor: Secondary Forensics)

Breakout Session 8: 10:00 am to 10:50 am

Workshop - Finding Resilience in Listening to Self Pt. I

(Sponsor: Higher Education)

This interactive workshop has two self-contained parts. "Finding Resilience in Listening to Self" focuses on mindfulness activities that will help you learn to relax, making you more resilient. Stress makes it impossible for us to listen to our own needs; consequently, we rely on habitual behavior that is usually not good for ourselves or others. This workshop will teach you how to listen to yourself so that you can better listen to others.

New Coaches Workshop – Judging: Writing Effective and Constructive Critiques

(Sponsor: Secondary Ed. Forensics)

GIFTS – Great Ideas for Teaching Students – A Variety of Topics

Attendees move from table to table every eight to ten minutes visiting six or more presenters who offer classroom activities, assignments as well as tips for assessments and lessons that focus on a variety of topics you can use in the classroom. GIFTS from both the collegiate and secondary levels will be presented.

The Resiliency of Alternative Limited Preparation Prompts

(Sponsor: Higher Ed. Forensics)

Limited preparation events have received a lot of focused attention in recent years regarding the question: how do we maintain the limited preparedness of limited preparation events. Organizations locally and nationally have discussed this issue in length and the rise of alternative prompts in impromptu and extemporaneous speaking events has begun to infiltrate tournaments. This panel explores the reasons in favor and against alternative prompts at tournaments and some strategies for coaching students to success with alternative prompts.

Breakout Session 9: 11:00 - 11:50 am

Workshop - Finding Resilience in Listening to Others Pt. II

(Sponsor: Higher Education)

This interactive workshop has two self-contained parts. "Finding Resilience in Listening to Others" focuses on active listening. Communication problems most often arise due to improper listening, which causes frustration. This workshop will teach you how to actively listening to others so that you can correctly ascertain what someone is saying, thus increasing your resilience.

Techniques for Utilizing Socratic Discussions in the Classroom

(Sponsor: Secondary Education)

The goal of this panel is to introduce participants to a variety of techniques to incorporate Socratic seminars into their classroom. We will examine a variety of models including the fishbowl method. The panel will also discuss different ways to assess

Workshop – Developing Resilience Through Creating a Web Series Pt. I

(Co-Sponsors: Theatre and Media)

This workshop will explore the process of creating a web series. Following a screening of several episodes of the presenter's web series, *It's You*, attendees will be led through the process of how to begin turning one's personal struggles and joys into a visual story.

Experienced/New Coaches Workshop: Making Speech Resilient on the National Level: NSDA

(Sponsor: Secondary Ed. Forensics)

Breakout Session 10: 12:00 - 12:50 pm

What Does It Mean to Be College Ready?

(Co-Sponsors: Secondary and Higher Ed.)

Students and teachers from different schools often disagree on what it means for students to truly be ready for college in any discipline, and communication is no different. This panel will offer insight from high school teachers and administrators as well as college instructors as to what it means to really be college ready.

Workshop – Developing Resilience Through Creating a Web Series Pt. II

(Co-Sponsors: Theatre and Media)

Part II of this workshop, continues to explore the process of creating a web series. Following a screening of several episodes of the presenter's web series, *It's You*, attendees will be led through the process of how to begin turning one's personal struggles and joys into a visual story.

New Coaches Workshop: Guiding Your Team Through the IHSA State Series

(Sponsor: Secondary Ed. Forensics)

Convention Closing Session 1:00 - 1:30 pm

The closing session will include conference wrap up and announcement of the top higher education submission, as well as prize drawings for memberships, Materials and Book Exchange participation, silent auction items and raffle prizes.

ICTA Board Meeting 1:45 – 4:00 p.m.

All new, continuing, and outgoing board members will attend lunch and convene the first meeting of the 2017-2018 year.