

**Carl Hyden**  
**Candidate Statement**

I am truly honored and humbled to have been nominated as a candidate for First Vice President-Elect Select. For me, a successful candidacy would allow me the opportunity to take my service to the Eastern Communication Association to new levels.

**Academic Background**

I came to academic life less directly than many have done. Of course, I got some degrees first. I hold a BA in Speech/Theatre from what is now Bloomsburg University. I also hold an MA in Theatre History and Criticism and an MA in Interpersonal Communication with a concentration in Rhetoric, both from Ohio University.

**Pre-Academic Positions**

After leaving OU, I went to work for then Baltimore City Mayor William Donald Schaefer. When he became Governor of Maryland, I was part of that administration, too. I wrote speeches, prepared the Mayor/Governor for events and appearances, planned events, followed legislation, lobbied legislators and more. Politics and political communication rapidly became my primary areas of interest.

**Academic Position – Morgan State University**

When Schaefer's terms as Governor ended in 1995, I joined the faculty of Morgan State University in Baltimore, where I teach courses in speech communication and public relations. I serve as Coordinator for the Speech Communication major. I was Director of Forensics for ten years and still direct the annual MSU Forensics Tournament.

I have designed a variety of new courses and was part of a committee that redesigned the Speech major. I was also involved in the design of new academic majors in Broadcast and Integrated Media Production, in Journalism and in Public Relations, Advertising and Media Sales & Ratings. I am Chair of the Curriculum Committee for the Department of Communication Studies.

**Service to ECA**

I've been active in ECA since 2001. I've presented papers and been on panels at every conference since then. I twice chaired Argumentation and Forensics group and once chaired Theory and Methodology. I'm slated to plan the program for Argumentation and Forensics for 2012. I've served a term on the ECA Executive Council and am in the middle of a second term. I was part of the task force that examined and revised the ECA Policies and Procedures Manual and I aided in local arrangements for the 2010 conference in Baltimore.

## **Other Service**

I've actively participated in the National Communication Association and the Maryland Communication Association. While Director of Forensics, I was also active in Pi Kappa Delta and in the governance of the Province of the Greater Northeast.

## **Vision and Direction for ECA**

Some regard communication as the primary goal of human existence. Language and the ability to create and use symbols separate humans from other life. Though the importance of communication has long been recognized, it's still relatively new as an academic discipline. ECA's founders were among the first to recognize the importance of communication as an academic field. By creating a place for communication scholars to meet and exchange ideas, those founders also laid the groundwork for the national and regional organizations.

Perhaps specialization is instinct. Perhaps it's learned. Whatever it is, ECA has welcomed people interested in all forms of communication and, through its interest groups, has provided places for those specialties. But, it's also true that communication is increasingly integrated and difficult to keep separate. I would preserve the specialties while we also seek the commonalities that bind our individual specialties together. I would want to find ways to combine our efforts in ways that make sense.

ECA has a reputation for openness. It seeks out and welcomes all points of view. It carefully considers them as it acts. That must continue. As the oldest scholarly communication association, ECA must be a leader in open and responsible communication.

ECA works hard to develop young scholars. Many graduate students and young faculty made their first scholarly presentations at ECA. ECA also recognizes the potential of undergraduate scholars. That recognition is now formalized through the McCroskey-Richmond Undergraduate Scholars Conference that debuts in 2011. That effort to encourage undergraduate scholarship must also continue.

Finally, I want to see ECA push the boundaries of its membership. There are areas of the present ECA we should encourage to grow. There are areas, too, where we haven't made the inroads that we might like. It would also be interesting to see membership go beyond the grounds of the academy and embrace communication in whatever field we find it. Increasing the diversity of our membership adds to the impact ECA can have.