

Call for Competitive Graduate Posters

The 117th Annual Convention of the Eastern Communication Association

Emergence

Sheraton Station Square, Pittsburgh, PA

April 9 – 12, 2026

2026 ECA Graduate Poster Session Planner: Jon Judy, Stark State College

Planner Email: jjudy@starkstate.edu

Submission Deadline: December 15, 2025, 11:59pm PST

Call for graduate submissions: Submissions are now open for competitive Graduate Poster sessions at the 2026 Eastern Communication Association convention.

Although not required, it is strongly encouraged that your poster submission relate to the theme of this year's convention, *Emergence*.

The selection of “Emergence” as our theme was inspired by the city hosting the convention, Pittsburgh. Following decades of economic hardship tied to declines in manufacturing, Pittsburgh has emerged anew as a bustling hub for technology, healthcare, and education. Its affordability; robust sports culture; and bustling arts, entertainment, and food scenes have now made it one of the country’s “most livable” cities.

As a theme, "Emergence" invites reflection on: the emergence of new perspectives, enlightenment, or awakening; the rise of cultural or societal trends, movements, or norms; and the emergence of creative ideas, movements, or transformative works. We encourage submissions that creatively, innovatively, and openly engage with this theme, drawing on your unique experiences. We also encourage exploration of the following:

- How can/will/must our discipline emerge in the context of the current political landscape?
- What ideas, transformative works, and best practices are emerging in teaching, learning, practicing, researching, and theorizing? How should we respond?
- How can we best support our students as they emerge from academics?
- In what ways is our emergence as communication educators, researchers, and practitioners nurtured, encouraged, or strengthened? How can this be celebrated? Alternatively, in what ways is our emergence as communication educators, researchers, and practitioners impeded, stifled, or silenced? How should we respond?

- How can we encourage our own emergence within ourselves?
- What is not emerging that should, and what should we do about it?

Poster presentation submissions can be a finished research paper OR a research project currently in progress. Poster presentations are ideal for those research projects that would benefit from a visual display. Accepted poster presentation submissions will be scheduled as part of a poster session of 15-20 posters.

All submissions will be blind reviewed, so there should be no identifying information anywhere within the uploaded document (i.e., your name, school, faculty mentor or course instructor, contact information). Be sure to also inspect the document and remove all personal information from the document properties, including file names, before submitting for review; but of course, this information is encouraged to be on the poster you present at the conference.

Submission Guidelines: All submissions must be uploaded through Attendee Interactive, which can be accessed at <https://ww4.aievolution.com/eca2601/>. If you do not already have an ECA Attendee Interactive account, you will be prompted to create an account with a new User ID and Password to submit your work.

You can submit a maximum of one poster presentation.

The following fields must be completed in your Attendee Interactive Graduate Poster submission:

- Title
- Author(s)
- Abstract: A 100-150 word abstract of your poster, followed verbatim by the ECA Statement of Professional Responsibility: *In submitting the attached poster, I/we recognize that this submission is considered a professional responsibility. I/we agree to present this poster if it is accepted and programmed. I/we further recognize that all who attend and present at ECA's annual meeting must register and pay required fees.*
- Categories: Indicate debut paper or Lambda Pi Eta Membership
- Additional Information:
 - Scheduling & Special Requests: Please identify any accommodations associated with physical or religious needs that may impact scheduling.

Special requests related to other needs such as weddings, births, etc. will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

- Documents: Upload a 1-2 page outline of the major points you plan to display on your poster. (Must be BLIND. Accepted file types are Word and PDF.)
- Preview, which enables you to review the information you provided in the prior fields; and
- Finalize, which directs you to upload your submission.

If you have questions about the submission process or the conference, contact the 2026 Graduate Poster Sessions Planner, Jon Judy, at jjudy@starkstate.edu.

Convention Acceptance Notifications: January, 2026

If you have questions about the submission process or the conference, contact Jon Judy jjudy@starkstate.edu the 2026 Graduate Posters Session Director.

Poster guideline materials will be updated here shortly. Please check back soon.