

First Vice President Report June 2024

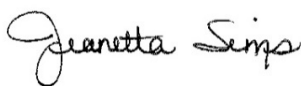
Since my last report, I have spent significant time on NCA 2024 convention preparations and enhancements including launching Virtual Learning Opportunities. This effort has involved working collaboratively with the National Office Convention and Communications teams as well key NCA members who will champion a session or present at a VLO for 2024 Convention programming. Also, I have attended monthly Executive Committee meetings, April's Legislative Assembly meeting, and periodic meetings with NCA Officers, convention planners, and others on behalf of NCA.

Many thanks to LaShawn Duckett, Hannah Hayes, convention planners, and the National Office Communications team for their extraordinary efforts in facilitating our convention planning activities while adhering to our timeline, which does have earlier deadlines than prior years. Collectively, we have accomplished implementation of the following: a new Convention Central platform with beta testing by volunteer convention planners; a new reviewer sign-up process; a new general reviewer rubric; a new additional slot request process that streamlines requests coming to the 1st Vice President; and a revamped convention website to increase awareness and provide a central web presence and hub for all content related to the convention. Additionally, key noteworthy activities, enhancements, and accomplishments are below.

- We received over 4,100+ unique submissions to the 2024 Convention, which is the highest number of submissions since prior to the pandemic. Final counts are in progress, and thank you messages were sent to planners and submitters to acknowledge their efforts and contributions.
- We have scheduled our first set of Virtual Learning Opportunities (VLOs) for May 31st and June 14th with these now featured on the new VLO website thanks to the Convention and Communications teams. The topic of the first VLO was shifted to align with May as Mental Health Awareness Month, which is an idea originating from the Comms team. I am diligently working on the slate of future VLOs and am grateful to the National Office teams and first group of VLO presenters for their efforts to showcase member expertise and to add member value.
- To address food insecurity among graduate students, we will pilot a ***"Pay for a Meal Program"*** at this year's convention where registrants can sponsor a meal voucher for a graduate student; individuals can sponsor at the time of their convention registration, which will open in July.
- 1st VP spotlight panels will focus on Communication for Greater Regard in four pivotal areas—dubbed the 4 Ls (Loss, Leadership, Legacy, and Leverage); each panel has a champion facilitator who is actively engaged in preparations for their respective spotlight panel.
- Convention planners are working on acceptance/declination decisions for us to have our first preliminary program which includes a pilot of the recommendation from Association members to have a 30-minute break (e.g., 12:15 to 12:45) in the convention schedule; this means afternoon sessions will begin at 1 p.m. with a few evening activities beginning 30 minutes later.

I look forward to providing additional updates in future reports. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeanetta D. Sims, Ph.D., APR
NCA First Vice President