Tennessee Communication Association
2027 Conference

Friday, September 17 - Saturday, September 18, 2027
Tennessee Tech University
Cookeville, Tennessee



“Empowering Student Voices: Shaping Our Student-Centered Approaches in Communication”

The theme for the 2027 conference is focused on our students and their experiences within our communication fields. This theme is designed to share our student-centered approaches in the classroom, while also providing opportunities for students to contribute to conversations regarding career pathways and their own futures within Communication-related fields. Areas of communication to consider would include student support resources, career exploration, the growing uses of technology and media, as well as contributions towards general education. We encourage papers, panels, and GIFTS submissions that relate to this theme.

Please submit a paper, panel, or GIFTS proposal at the link below.

https://forms.gle/KSa3EYVeS6zTm9sSA

The deadline to submit proposals is 11:59 pm EDT Thursday, April 15, 2027.
Student competitive papers and Student Film Showcase submissions should be submitted by 11:59 PM EDT Saturday, May 15, 2027.

We seek GIFTS that relate to the basic communication course (i.e. Fundamentals of Communication, Public Speaking, Introduction to Communication).

1. All GIFTS ideas must:
    - Be original to the presenter.
    - Not duplicate any other previously published work, including your own previously published work.
    - Have been implemented in the classroom.
2. Presenters should bring printed handouts with an explanation of the GIFTS activity to the conference/presentation.
3. The GIFTS idea should be able to be explained in 8 minutes or less.

13th Annual TCA Student Short Film Contest and Showcase

Please enter your students' films in the Tennessee Communication Association's Short Film Contest and Showcase. **Entries are due by Saturday, May 15, 2027.** The categories are:

- Commercials and PSAs that are 30 – 60-seconds
- Documentaries that are 10-minutes or less
- Short films that are 10-minutes or less

Submit the YouTube Links and Microsoft Word document with the information below for the 2027 TCA Short Film Contest.

Category
Title of Submission
School
Submitted By
Phone Number
Email
Brief Synopsis
YouTube Link

Submit the information in a Microsoft Word document and email at tennesseecommassociation@gmail.com by **Saturday, May 15, 2027.**

It is free to enter students into Student Film Contest and Showcase.

The top films will be put into a 1.5-hour showcase at the conference on Friday evening.
Judges rate the entries, and the top entries will be in the showcase and the winners will be the top rated per category. All directors of the films chosen to be in the showcase will be given a Selected for Screening certificate.

The director of the winning film in each category will be given a certificate and a cash reward. After the showcase, the audience will vote for their favorite film, and the winner will be given the Audience Favorite certificate and cash award.
If you have questions, please contact Dr. Tracy Nichols by email at nicholst@apsu.edu.

Student Scholarship

TCA prides itself for its support of student scholarship. Please pass this invitation along to your students. Remember there are top student paper awards for undergraduate and graduate students. Please notate all student submissions as **Undergraduate or Graduate student** on the cover page.

Please upload student paper(s) here: https://forms.gle/ui9cuEemDgtmwby16
You will need to sign in with a Google account to upload the student paper(s).

For additional information about the 2026 TCA Conference, please contact:

Kayla Huber

TCA President-Elect
Walters State Community College

kayla.huber@ws.edu

Dr. Shaq Marsh

TCA Executive Director
Pellissippi State Community College

somarsh@pstcc.edu.