

**Editorial Introduction:
The Changing Communication Center – Collaboration through Student Engagement,
Praxis, and Research**

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Our communication centers are constantly changing, adapting, improving, and growing. In many cases, the communication center reflects initiatives of significance across the larger institution. Communication centers are sites of student engagement, research, scholarship, teaching, and learning. Related activities take place each day within these spaces and programs. The manuscripts published in *Communication Center Journal* reflect the important work taking place in a diverse range of centers. Manuscripts build on one another and reference earlier communication center findings, creating an important and interesting dialogue. The standing sections of the journal—Research, Praxis, Special (topical) Section, Excellence, and Book Reviews—allow communication center scholars a venue for sharing their work, including ongoing research, status updates, and practical approaches.

I saw a sign recently in an academic department that read, “Collaboration is the new competition.” Collaboration can yield innovative partnerships that transform the ways we work and learn on our campuses and in our centers. We see collaboration each day in our spaces as students discover and hone communication practices. Collaborative processes are inspiring and challenging. The special section in Volume 4 is dedicated to understanding collaboration(s) in new ways and opportunities for rethinking—or maybe revising—our collaborative practices.

While collaborations exist across our campuses, those that have emerged within

libraries are of particular interest. Libraries often existing at the center of campus and inspire us to search for new ways of knowing. In Volume 4, you’ll find articles focused on collaborative designs between libraries and communication centers. While some articles highlight new or emerging practices, others explore long-standing relationships or programs. I hope this issue inspires future collaborative ideas and opportunities.

Communication Center Journal is a collaborative effort among many scholars at different institutions working together to advance our understanding of these spaces and programs. In addition, this venue can inspire new questions or avenues for thinking about communication center work. The range of articles contained in this issue represent current trends in research and scholarly practice. While it is critical that we continue to find ways to feature new research, the journal also serves as a platform for engaging students as partners in learning and communication design through Excellence in the Center perspectives.

Thank you to the authors featured in Volume 4 for their hard work in preparing these manuscripts for publication. I would also like to thank our outstanding editorial leadership team, including Kim Cuny, our Managing Editor; Paul Mabrey, Book Review Editor; Jennifer Fairchild, Clint Stivers, and Trena Napier, Associate Editors; Lauren Beard, Excellence in the Center Section Editor; and Leslie Williams, our Editorial Assistant and a student in the Noel Studio for Academic Creativity.