

## **Editorial Introduction: Communication Centers Spanning Campus and Communities**

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### **Introduction**

Communication centers span their campus(es) and community(ies) through the opportunities, services, and programs they provide for students, faculty, and their local publics. Given the diverse range of research, praxis, and recommendations offered in Volume 5 of the *Communication Center Journal (CCJ)*, I found this framing fitting and exciting. It suggests that communication centers both reach out to their local, campus, and national communities but also thrive through these experiences, generating new ideas, pathways, and exploratory opportunities. Through partnerships and engagement, we can see (like those designed with areas of our campus) to those far-reaching or virtual communities we engage through innovative uses of technologies, communication centers have a way of creating community while encouraging our collaborators to find their unique voice. I believe this issue of *CCJ* allows us to rethink our idea of community. It is key to the ways that communication centers “survive,” the theme of the 105<sup>th</sup> National Communication Association Convention, and, better yet, thrive.

The articles contained in this issue of the *CCJ* represent some of the latest research, scholarship, and praxis taking place in communication centers throughout the country. The authors offer theories and techniques that span center practices and spaces. As you read the articles contained in this issue of the journal, I hope that you are

inspired by the work taking place among these impressive programs and find plenty of concepts to implement or study in your own spaces.

Several trends become apparent when reading the articles in this issue. Foremost, communication centers are becoming--or have become--impressive sites of research and development. In addition, communication centers are exploring innovative practices in areas of major significance for their campus communities. Several threads for further discussion emerge, including:

- Communication centers are sites of serious research of campus-wide benefit;
- Student staff members serve a central role in the research and praxis developed and honed in communication centers;
- Communication centers serve as valuable sites of collaboration across departments and academic units.

As shown in this issue, the research and development taking place within communication centers extends far beyond basic skills to transferable concepts that enhance teaching and learning in the classroom and beyond. The communication center’s place as an enhancement to the academic endeavors of an academic institution cannot be overstated, and the research offered here sheds light on the opportunities programs will have moving forward.

Communication centers can continue to produce valuable research and enhancements to the ways that students engage in communication practices. As programs continue to develop and change, communication centers can examine the practices they implement to share them with *CCJ* readers.

Volume 5 contains several sections, including the general and praxis articles, Excellence in the Center articles, authored or coauthored by students, book reviews, and two special, topical sections focused on communicating science and social media in the communication center. I would like to acknowledge Dr. Kevin Dvorak, Dr. Janine Morris, and Dr. Whitney Lehmann, Nova Southeastern University, for their leadership in curating the special section on social media contained in this issue of *CCJ*.

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to lead *CCJ* to new and exciting places in the coming years.