



Galloway



Hardin



Lorente



Greer



Thompson

ACEJMC to host informational session/panel at AEJMC conference

Topic: Navigating an ever-evolving legislative and DEI landscape; updates from ACEJMC leaders

When/Where: 8:30-10 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 8
Philadelphia Marriott Downtown, Franklin Hall 8

Discussion leaders:

- Del Galloway, Accrediting Council President
- Marie Hardin, Accrediting Committee Chair; Dean, Bellisario College of Communications at Pennsylvania State University

-- Rafael Lorente, Accrediting Committee Vice Chair; Dean, Merrill College of Journalism at the University of Maryland

-- Jennifer Greer, Council member representing AEJMC, 2021-2024; Acting Vice Provost and Dean, College of Communication and Information at the University of Kentucky

-- Patricia Thompson, ACEJMC Executive Director

Thompson retiring; committee begins search for new director

At the Council's meeting in May, Pat Thompson announced she will retire from ACEJMC summer 2025. She has served as executive director of ACEJMC since 2018. Following her announcement, Council members gave Pat a well-deserved standing ovation. We are better and stronger because of Pat's commitment to ACEJMC. Pat will be recognized and celebrated next year. Details to follow.

Moving forward

A search committee has been formed and a job description drafted, which will soon be available on the Council's website and distributed to program directors, as well as Council and Committee members. The application deadline for the position is Friday, Dec. 6, and interviews are expected to take place in February or March next year.

Search committee members are: Del Galloway, chair, Greg Pitts, Marie Hardin, Rafael Lorente, Peter Bhatia and Dorothy Bland. Thompson will serve as ex-officio.

New noncompliance policy to start with 2024-25 accreditation reviews

A new policy approved by ACEJMC in 2023 will require accredited or reaccredited units with a standard out of compliance to demonstrate, within three years, that the deficiencies have been rectified.

The policy ensures ACEJMC is in compliance with Council for Higher Education Accreditation requirements. CHEA is the agency that formally recognizes ACEJMC to accredit programs for professional education in journalism and mass communications in institutions of higher learning.

Beginning in the 2024-25

academic year, if the Council accredits or reaccredits a school that the site team has cited for a noncompliance on a standard, the school must submit a report to ACEJMC within a year outlining its plans to correct deficiencies. The report should note issues that may delay quickly achieving compliance. Within the next two years, the school will be required to submit a final report with evidence that the deficiencies in the noncompliant standard have been resolved.

A Council-appointed panel will review the school statement and will report its findings to the Council.

Hearst Awards Program information/ breakfast session at conference

Open to all faculty at schools accredited by ACEJMC

When: Friday, Aug. 9, 10:30 a.m., during the AEJMC annual conference

Where: Franklin Hall 8, Philadelphia Marriott Downtown

Moderating/Presiding
Jan Watten, Program Director,
Hearst Journalism Awards

Please join for an opportunity to learn more about how to enter the upcoming Hearst Contests, with tips and strategies from the Hearst Steering Committee.

The Hearst Journalism Awards Program was founded in 1960 to provide support, encouragement and assistance to journalism education at the college and university level. The program awards scholarships to students for outstanding performance in college-level journalism, with matching grants to the students' schools. The 64th annual program, offering up to \$700,000 in awards, consists of five monthly writing competitions, two photojournalism competitions, one audio competition, two television competitions, and four multimedia competitions – with championship finals in all divisions.

For information about the session, email janwatten.hearstawards@gmail.com

MEETINGS CALENDAR

Saturday, Aug. 24
Accrediting Council
Business Meeting (Virtual)
Noon - 3 p.m. EDT

Friday, March 21, 2025
Accrediting Committee
Chicago

Thursday, May 1, 2025
Accrediting Council
Washington, D.C.

New representatives to the Council

McGhee, Miller will join ASJMC representatives

Felicia McGhee and Andrea Miller were elected by the Association of Schools of Journalism and Mass Communication to serve as representatives to the Accrediting Council. They will serve a three-year term.

McGhee is associate dean and a professor in the School of Journalism & Graphic Communica-

tion at Florida A&M University. Miller is dean of Gaylord College at the University of Oklahoma.

Other ASJMC representatives are Mark Lodato, dean of the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications, Syracuse University, and Jason Shepard, interim dean of the College of Communications, California State University, Fullerton.



McGhee



Miller

Bland, McCollough elected AEJMC representatives

Dorothy Bland and Chris McCollough will serve three-year terms as Council representatives for the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication.

Bland is a professor in the Mayborn School of Journalism at the University of North Texas. McCollough is head of the Department of Communication at

Jacksonville State University.

Other AEJMC representatives are Suzanne Horsley, associate professor, Department of Advertising and Public Relations at The University of Alabama, and Jessica Pucci, senior associate dean in the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State University.



Bland



McCollough

Cherenson joins Council as PRSA representative

Mike Cherenson, executive vice president of public relations at SCG Advertising & Public Relations, will join the Accrediting Council as a representative for the Public Relations Society of America.

Cherenson recently served two

three-year terms as an Accrediting Committee member.

Other PRSA representatives to the Council are Rosanna M. Fiske, APR, Fellow PRSA; and Denise Hill, vice president of Corporate Communications and Community Relations for Lowe's.



Cherenson

Kurpius, Bunting, Imada represent new members

David Kurpius, dean of the Missouri School of Journalism at the University of Missouri, will serve as Accrediting Council representative for the Alliance of Schools and Colleges of Communication and Journalism (ASCCJ).

The alliance is one of three new member organizations approved for Council membership. Two new professional

organizations also have joined the Council and announced their representatives earlier this year.

LaSharah S. Bunting, CEO and executive director of the Online News Association, will represent ONA. Bill Imada will represent the Institute for Public Relations (IPR) on the Council. Imada is an IPR Trustee and cofounder, chairman and chief connectivity officer for IW Group, Inc.



Kurpius



Bunting



Imada

2023-24 Accreditation Decisions

Accreditation decisions were made for 32 programs at 27 schools by the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications (ACEJMC).

ACEJMC accredits 120 schools in the United States and other nations. The Council conducts voluntary reviews for schools with professional journalism and mass communications programs at the undergraduate and master's degree levels.

The following undergraduate programs received initial accreditation:

- Ajman University, College of Mass Communication
- Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, School of Communication

The following undergraduate programs were removed from provisional after successful revisits:

- Central Michigan University, Department of Journalism
- Indiana University, Journalism Unit in the Media School
- Kent State University, School of Media and Journalism
- San José State University, School of Journalism and Mass Communication
- University of North Alabama, Department of Communication
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Hussman School of Journalism and Media

PROGRAM REVIEWS / Noncompliance findings in the 8 Standards

Standard	2022-23	2023-24	TOTAL
1 Mission, Governance and Administration			
2 Curriculum and Instruction	2		2
3 Assessment of Learning Outcomes	3	3	6
4 Diversity and Inclusiveness	2		2
5 Faculty		1	1
6 Student Services		1	1
7 Resources, Facilities and Equipment	1	1	2
8 Professional and Public Service			
Total Noncompliances	8	6	14
* Programs Reviewed	32	32	64
Totals include revisits	26 undergraduate 6 graduate program	27 undergraduate 5 graduate programs	53 11

** undergrad/professional master's programs reviewed separately
Judgments of compliance/noncompliance required on revisits*

The following undergraduate programs were reaccruited:

- Colorado State University, Department of Journalism & Media Communication
- Drake University, School of Journalism and Mass Communication
- Middle Tennessee State University, School of Journalism and Strategic Media
- Norfolk State University, Department of Mass Communications and Journalism
- Shippensburg University, Department of Communication, Journalism and Media
- Southeast Missouri State University, Department of Mass Media
- Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, Department of Mass Communications
- University of Iowa, School of Journalism and Mass Communication
- University of Kansas, William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications
- University of Mississippi School of Journalism and New Media

- University of Missouri, School of Journalism
- University of Nebraska-Lincoln, College of Journalism and Mass Communications
- University of North Florida, School of Communication
- University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tombras School of Advertising and Public Relations, School of Journalism and Media undergraduate programs

The following undergraduate and professional programs were reaccruited:

- Arizona State University, Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication
- St. Bonaventure University, Jandoli School of Communication
- University of Colorado Boulder, Department of Journalism
- University of South Carolina, School of Journalism and Mass Communications
- University of Southern California Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism

In appreciation to 2023-24 site team members

There were 27 accreditation site visits, including six revisits, during the 2023-24 visit cycle. Seventy-two individuals volunteered their time and service for these visits. Some individuals served on multiple visits.

Team Chairs

Caesar Andrews
 Peter Bhatia
 Dorothy Bland
 David Boardman
 Ann Brill
 Hub Brown
 Shirley Staples Carter
 Barbara Cochran
 Lucy Dalglish
 Heidi de Laubenfels
 Joe Foote
 Kristin Gilger
 Marie Hardin
 Barbara Hines
 Joel Kaplan
 Greg Pitts
 Brad Rawlins
 Jennifer Sizemore
 Al Stavitsky

Team Members

Sonny Albarado
 Andy Alexander
 Tim Bajkiewicz
 Sandy Banisky
 Beth Barnes
 Marianne Barrett
 Battinto Batts
 Mike Cherenson
 Keonte Coleman
 Dale Cressman
 George Daniels
 Dave Davies
 Denise Dowling
 Vince Duffy
 Rosanna Fiske
 Katie Foss
 Kenn Gaither
 Del Galloway
 Steve Geimann
 Jessica Gisclair
 Jennifer Greer
 Michel Haigh
 Charlotte Hall
 Matthew Haught
 Joanne Hernandez
 Don Hudson
 Jackie Jones
 Helen Katz
 Kelly Kissel
 David Kurpius
 Gracie Lawson-Borders



Pictured during the site visit to the Department of Journalism and Media Communication at Colorado State University from left, are: Will Sutton, Denise Dowling, team chair Barbara Hines, and Michel Haigh.



Site team chair Marie Hardin, left, was joined by site team members Helen Katz, Hyunjin Seo and David Kurpius on an initial accreditation review of the College of Communication at Ajman University in the United Arab Emirates.



The Drake University site team met Griff II, Drake's live mascot. Team members pictured from left are: Jessica Gisclair, Johnny Sparks, team chair Jennifer Sizemore, Sandy Banisky and Greg Luft.

Pam Luecke
 Greg Luft
 Regina Luttrell
 Diane McFarlin
 Diana Martinelli
 Emily Metzgar
 Andrea Miller
 Julianne Newton
 Mark Nylander
 Earnest Perry
 Deb Potter

Africa Price
 Cheryl Procter-Rogers
 Jessica Pucci
 Ford Risley
 Janet Rose
 Mark Russell
 Carol Sagers
 Hyunjin Seo
 Brian Sheehan
 Dan Shelley

Bill Silcock
 Johnny Sparks
 Al Stavitsky
 James Stewart
 Amy Struthers
 Will Sutton
 Shari Veil
 Yong Volz
 Sonja Williams
 David Wozniak

2024-25

Site Visit Schedule

ACEJMC invites comments by third parties, limited to written comments speaking directly to a program's compliance with ACEJMC's accreditation standards.

Comments should be submitted to ACEJMC, c/o Patricia Thompson, ACEJMC Executive Director, patt@umd.edu.

FALL SEMESTER

Oct. 20-23

Nicholls State University
 University of Montana

Oct. 27-30

Virginia Commonwealth University

Nov. 10-13

Elon University

Nov. 17-20

University of Georgia
 South Dakota State University

Dec. 1-4

Eastern Illinois University
 Universidad Ana G. Méndez
 -- Gurabo Campus

WINTER/SPRING SEMESTER

Jan. 19-22

American University-Emirates
 (initial and international)

Jan. 26-29

University of Oregon
 Auburn University
 University of Arizona

Feb. 2-5

University of Florida
 Mississippi State University
 (initial)
 Southern University and
 A&M College

Feb. 9-12

Florida A&M University

REVISITS -- Dates TBA

Bowling Green State University
 Iowa State University

PROGRAM UPDATES

American University -- Marnel Niles Goins is the new dean of the School of Communications. She succeeds Leena Jayaswal, who served as interim dean.

American University in Dubai -- Marta Rebolledo is the new associate dean for the Mohammed Bin Rashid School for Communication.

California State University, Fullerton -- Micheal McAlexander is serving as acting chair of the Department of Communications while Jason Shepard serves as interim dean of the College of Communications.

Howard University -- Chukwuka "Chuka" Onwumechili is serving as interim dean of the Cathy Hughes School of Communications. He succeeds Gracie Lawson-Borders, who stepped down and returned to faculty after serving as dean since 2013.

Indiana University -- Suzannah Evans Comfort is the new director of the Journalism Unit in the Media School. She succeeds Gerry Lanosga, who is serving as interim associate dean for academic affairs for the Media School.

San José State University -- John Delacruz will become director of the School of Journalism and Mass Communications, effective with the start of the fall semester. He will succeed Phylis West-Johnson, who is returning full time to faculty after serving as director for eight years.

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville -- Suman Mishra has been named chair of the Department of Mass Communications. She succeeds Musonda Kapatamoyo, who completed his six-year term rotation as chair and returned full time to faculty.

University of Memphis -- Matthew Haught was named chair of the Department of Journalism and Strategic Media. He succeeds David Arant, who stepped down after serving 16 years in the leadership role and is now a professor emeritus.

University of North Texas -- James E. Mueller was named interim dean of the Frank W. and Sue Mayborn School of Journalism. Mueller, who served as the school's associate dean, assumed the role July 1.

University of Oklahoma -- Andrea Miller is the new dean of Gaylord College. She succeeds David Craig, who served as interim dean. Miller was most recently the dean of the Mayborn School of Journalism at the University of North Texas.

University of Tennessee at Chattanooga -- Erin Ryan is the new head of the Department of Communication. She succeeds Charlene Simmons, who served as interim department head.

Washington and Lee University -- Mark Coddington is the new head of the Department of Journalism and Mass Communications, succeeding Adedayo Abah, who returned full time to faculty.

Accreditation Lapse

St. Cloud State University's Department of Mass Communications allowed its accreditation to lapse at the close of the 2023-24 academic year.

REQUIRED ANNUAL REPORTING

Retention, graduation data update by Aug. 15

Accredited programs are required to publish current student retention and graduation data on their website and to update the data annually by Aug. 15.

Notification of the updated data must be sent to ACEJMC, directed to Cindy Reinardy at creinardy@ku.edu.

Data are to be posted in a prominent, easy-to-find place on the accredited unit's website.

Programs undergoing initial accreditation review are required to have data posted before their site visit.

The full policy is at:

<http://www.acejmc.org/resources/instructions-for-publishingretention-and-graduation-data>.

Searchable database

ACEJMC's searchable database is expected to be complete in spring 2025.

The database will provide objective and current data of all ACEJMC accredited programs in one place. A digital tool will allow users to compare accredited programs side-by-side, including information about degrees offered, fees and tuition, enrollment and faculty numbers, internships, and travel abroad opportunities.

Schools have been required to self-report data directly into the database since 2018-19 as part of their self-study process for site team reviews and continue annual updates. Schools on the 2024-25 review schedule are the last group to cycle through under the new database requirement.

The database can be accessed at <https://lookup.acejmc.org>

Initiatives Update

ACEJMC to launch new branding in September

Last year, ACEJMC conducted a brand research study to understand the perceptions and beliefs of Council and Committee members relative to their knowledge of the organization and its mission. The research had a 72% response rate. The results informed the development of the council’s new brand and visual identity (featured here), which will be launched in early September. The new identity will be reflected on the Council’s website, as well as in our annual booklet, stationary and other collateral materials.

A Seal of Accreditation will also launch in September. Accredited programs may feature the seal on their website and in promotional materials, ensuring they follow required guidelines.

The refresh was led by our Brand Identity Task Force in partnership with Ad2 of Southern California, the young professionals arm of the American Advertising Federation. We are grateful to the task force and Ad2 for their support.

LOGO



SEAL



Standards review continues

Every 10 years, ACEJMC launches a major review of our accreditation standards. In 2021, a number of changes were made to modernize our standards. These included eliminating the required 72 outside credits and reducing the number of standards by combining faculty-related topics into a single standard. We clarified and strengthened the governance and assessment standards. We added a broader focus for reviewing diversity and inclusiveness and we renumbered the standards.

Feedback from program reviews, site teams and Council and Committee discussions reminds us to think actively about our accreditation standards and the guidance site team members receive for their reviews.

An Ad Hoc committee consisting of Council members Dorothy Bland, Heidi de Laubenfels and Greg Pitts will review the standards during the coming academic year. As we have in the past when changes to standards have been recommended, there will be ample time devoted to receiving input from school directors, Accrediting Committee and Accrediting Council members, site team members and others. Please contact Greg Pitts, chair of the ad hoc group, with your suggestions, at Contact Greg Pitts, chair, with your suggestions, at: Greg.Pitts@mtsu.edu or 615-494-8925.

Engagement Committee: new name, new members

Last year the Council approved a new bylaw objective: *To advocate for the value of education in journalism and mass communications in championing democratic values as the foundation of a diverse and inclusive society.*

To support this commitment, an “Advocacy Committee” was created. Its first item of business was to listen to valued stakeholders: program directors, Council and Committee members, AEJMC and ASJMC members and others. At its March meeting earlier this year, ASJMC hosted a panel discussion of our Advocacy Committee - a terrific opportunity to hear directly from folks their hopes, concerns and guidance.

A key outcome of those discussions was to consider renaming the committee from “Advocacy” to something that better reflects the work of the committee. The result is a new name - Engagement Committee - which aligns

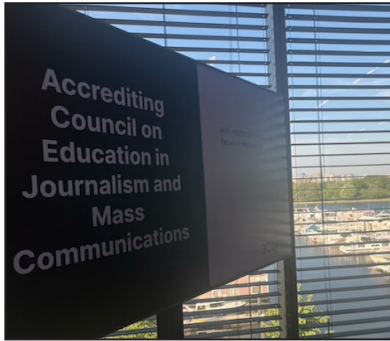
with the group’s intent to engage with stakeholders that share a common commitment - to advance higher education and journalism and mass communications, more specifically. Feedback also included appointing additional educators to the Committee, which has happened.

Our Engagement Committee will be of counsel to ACEJMC’s executive committee, offering informed guidance as we interpret - and possibly - respond to attacks on journalism and mass communications education. The committee’s work will include monitoring state and federal legislation that impacts the work of ACEJMC.

The Engagement Committee is chaired by Mike Chersonson and includes Marie Hardin, Steve Geimann, Rosanna Fiske, Dan Shelley, Gracie Lawson-Borders and Jessica Pucci.

BIG thanks to Mike, Marie, Steve, Rosanna, Dan, Gracie and Jessica for their commitment and support.

ONLINE RESOURCES



The Accrediting Council's spring accreditation meeting was held May 3 and 4 at the Freedom Forum's new headquarters in Washington, D.C., on The Wharf, which offered an expansive view of the Potomac River.

With gratitude to the Freedom Forum

ACEJMC is grateful to The Freedom Forum for hosting the Council's May 3-4 meeting earlier this year. The Freedom Forum's focus is to promote and advance our First Amendment and its five freedoms -- assembly, petition, press, religion and speech -- bedrock values that strategically align with the work of ACEJMC.

Big thanks to Jan Neuharth, Chair and CEO at The Freedom Forum, and her team for their warm hospitality. ACEJMC's Council will return to The Freedom Forum for its meeting next year - Thursday, May 1.



Tamara Buck, chair of the Department of Mass Media at Southeast Missouri State University, responds to questions from the Accrediting Council during accreditation deliberations May 3.

The Accrediting Council has many resources available to assist schools with the accreditation process. Documents are found under the resources tab at <http://www.acejmc.org/resources/>.

Among the resources are:

Preparation for Accreditation suggests actions a program should undertake in the years before the self-study, including the collection of data and record keeping, and the involvement of faculty and students in the accreditation process.

How to Develop Mission and Plans provides information on writing a mission statement and developing a diversity plan, a long-range strategic plan, and an assessment plan.

Self-study Tipsheet offers guidance on preparation of the selfstudy and missteps to avoid.

Examples of self studies also are available under the resources tab. These reports represent a broad spectrum of program sizes and resources.

For more information, email creinardy@ku.edu.