

UPCOMING EVENTS

Committee meeting in Chicago

The annual Accrediting Committee meeting will take place on March 22-23 at the Westin Michigan Avenue in Chicago.

The Committee will vote on accreditation recommendations for 27 schools.

See the full list of schools on Page 3.

The meeting will start at 1 p.m. Friday, March 22. It will resume at 8 a.m. Saturday, March 23.

Spring Council meeting in D.C.

The annual spring Accrediting Council meeting will take place May 3 and 4 at the Freedom Forum's new headquarters in Washington, D.C., on The Wharf.

The meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, May 3. Accreditation decisions for 27 schools will be made on Friday.

The Council spring business meeting will be on Saturday, May 4, starting at 8:30 a.m. It is expected to be over no later than 2 p.m.

Attendees are encouraged to book lodging in D.C. as soon as possible. Here are a few hotels near the Freedom Forum: Canopy by Hilton, Hyatt House, CitizenM, Riggs.

Updates about the May meeting will be posted on acejmc.org.

Session at ASJMC conference will explore Council advocacy policy

ACEJMC is collaborating with the Association of Schools of Journalism and Mass Communication (ASJMC) for our winter meetings.

ASJMC is hosting its conference March 20-22 at the Westin. ACEJMC will have a session during the conference at 3:15 p.m. Thursday, March 21.

Last year, ACEJMC approved in its bylaws a new objective: To advocate for the value

See Advocacy on Page 2

ACEJMC approves new member organizations

Three organizations will join the ACEJMC Council. Each organization will have one seat on the Council, beginning with the Council's business meeting in August 2024:

Alliance of Schools and Colleges of Communication and Journalism (ASCCJ) is a membership organization that works to advance communication and strengthen society by uniting and supporting large, comprehensive academic communication programs in the U.S. and throughout the world in order to foster excellence, evaluation, collaboration, diversity, and integrity.

ASCCJ plans to elect its ACEJMC representative this semester.

Institute for Public Relations (IPR) is an independent, nonprofit research foundation dedicated to fostering greater use of research and research-based knowledge in corporate communication and the public relations practice.

IPR has selected Bill Imada as its Council representative. Imada, an IPR Trustee, is co-founder, chairman and chief connectivity officer for IW Group, Inc., an advertising and public relations agency specializing in multicultural markets. Imada has been a long-time champion and advocate for students and is the founder of the National Millennial and GenZ Community. In 2022, Imada was inducted into the PR Week Hall of Fame, and this year, he will be inducted into the American Advertising Federation Advertising Hall of Fame.



Bill Imada

Online News Association (ONA) is a nonprofit membership organization with the mission to inspire and advance innovation and excellence in digital journalism. Its membership includes journalists, technologists, executives, academics and students.

LaSharah S. Bunting, CEO and executive director of ONA, will represent ONA on the Council. Bunting has worked as vice president and executive editor at Simon & Schuster, director of journalism at the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, and as a longtime senior editor for The New York Times. She serves on the Board of Directors for the Lenfest Institute, Outlier Media, Open Campus, and Dow Jones News Fund.



LaSharah S. Bunting

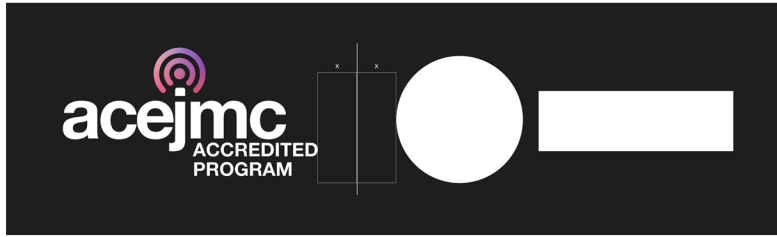
In this issue:

Accreditation seal
coming soon
Page 2

Nominating
Committee named
Page 2

Searchable
database update
Page 3

Appeals Board
appointed
Page 4



ACEJMC’s Seal of Accreditation coming soon

ACEJMC accreditation has long been called the “seal of approval” for quality in journalism and mass communications education. Later this semester, ACEJMC will have available its seal of approval for use by its accredited programs to help note and promote their accreditation designation.

The seal, developed by Ad2 of Southern California under the leadership of Shawn Nichols and in partnership with the Council’s Brand Identity Task Force, will be available in two design formats: one that can stand alone, and a seal design that incorporates a school’s logo and name. Council member Jenny Buschhorn, who represents the American Advertising Federation, and Michael Cherenson, a member of the ACEJMC Committee, serve as co-chairs of the task force.

Administrators of accredited schools will be notified about how to access the seal and its terms of use.

Advocacy

Continued from Page 1

of education in journalism and mass communications in championing democratic values as the foundation of a diverse and inclusive society.

An Advocacy Committee was formed, and it is now fleshing out a policy on what “advocacy” means for the Council – the guardrails that will guide our work, and how and when our voice will be activated.

Our session on March 21 is an opportunity to capture feedback from ASJMC members.

Accrediting Council President Del Galloway will open the session with remarks and will introduce the panelists, who are members of the Advocacy Committee:

- **Mike Cherenson**, chair of the Advocacy Committee; Executive Vice President – Public Relations – SCG Advertising and Public Relations; Accrediting Committee member
- **Marie Hardin**, Dean, Donald P. Bellisario College of Communications, Penn State University; Accrediting Committee Chair
- **Steve Geimann**, Bloomberg News (retired); Accrediting Council public member
- **Dan Shelley**, President and CEO, Radio-Television Digital News Association; Council member representing RTDNA

Nominating Committee named; Pitts to chair

Accrediting Council President Del Galloway appointed Council members Greg Pitts, Denise Hill and James Stewart to the Nominating Committee to recommend Accrediting Committee members and officers whose terms will begin in academic year 2024-25.

Council members will vote on the slate of nominees. Those elected will serve a three-year term, beginning September 1.

Pitts, Accrediting Council vice president, will chair the Nominating Committee. He is a professor and former director in the School of Journalism and Strategic Media at Middle Tennessee State University, and represents the Broadcast Education Association on the Council.

Hill is vice president of Corporate Communications and Community Relations for Lowe’s, and represents the public Relations Society of America on the Council.

Stewart is the department head and a professor in the Department of Mass Communication at Nicholls State University, and represents the Association of Schools of Journalism and Mass Communication on the Council.



Greg Pitts



Denise Hill



James Stewart

Searchable database nearing completion

ACEJMC's searchable database is expected to be complete and ready for students, parents, employers and the public in 2025.

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

The database is intended to better inform the general public of the offerings at accredited programs and to provide students and their parents the ability to determine the best program for a student's education in this field. The database also allows faculty to see what other programs offer and to encourage continued advancement in curriculum and teaching.

Searchable database participation is required as part of the self-study review process for accredited schools.

Accrediting Committee to review 27 schools

The Accrediting Committee will make recommendations on 27 schools during its two-day meeting in Chicago, March 22 and 23. Schools to be discussed are listed below in alphabetical order.

Ajman University (Initial accreditation)
 Arizona State University (Undergrad/grad)
 Central Michigan University (Revisit)
 Colorado State University
 Drake University
 Indiana University (Revisit)
 Kent State (Revisit)
 Middle Tennessee State University
 Norfolk State University
 San José State University (Revisit)
 Shippensburg University
 Southeast Missouri State University
 Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville
 St. Bonaventure University (Undergrad/grad)
 University of Colorado Boulder (Undergrad/grad)
 University of Iowa
 University of Kansas
 University of Mississippi
 University of Missouri
 University of Nebraska
 University of North Alabama (Revisit)
 University of North Carolina Chapel Hill (Revisit)
 University of North Florida
 University of South Carolina (Undergrad/grad)
 University of Southern California (Undergrad/grad)
 University of Tennessee-Knoxville
 Virginia Tech University (Initial accreditation)

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CHEA recognition review under way in 2024

ACEJMC is the agency formally recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) for accrediting programs for professional education in journalism and mass communications at institutions of higher learning. This year, ACEJMC is engaged in the CHEA recognition renewal process.

CHEA's public meeting to discuss the renewal will be in July. At least 90 days before the meeting, CHEA will post a call for third-party comment on its website, chea.org.

ONLINE RESOURCES

The Accrediting Council has available several resources to assist with the accreditation process. Documents are found under the resources tab at www.acejmc.org. 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 self-study 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.

Appeals Board appointed; Oskam to chair

Judy Oskam, director of Texas State University's School of Journalism and Mass Communication, was appointed chair of the Appeals Board by Del Galloway, Accrediting Council president.

Oskam is a former member of the Council, representing the Association of Schools of Journalism and Mass Communication for two three-year terms.

Other Appeals Board members are Judy Phair and Joe Foote. Phair is president of PhairAdvantage Communications, based in Laurel, Md. She served several years as Public Relations Society of America representative to the Council. Foote is dean emeritus of the Gaylord College at the University of Oklahoma. He served as Council representative for the Broadcast Education for more than two decades.



Judy Oskam



Judy Phair



Joe Foote

Schools reminded to update retention, graduation data annually on their website

Accredited programs are required to maintain current retention and graduation data on their website or risk probation under ACEJMC policy. The annual reporting expectation is addressed in ACEJMC's Standard 1, Indicator d) and Standard 6, Indicator e).

Council policy requires its accredited schools to annually update their student data for undergraduate and master's programs with the most current data available by Aug. 15. The data are to be posted in a prominent and easy-to-find location on the school's website. Notification of the update must be sent to ACEJMC headquarters.

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-publishing-retention-and-graduation-data/>

The Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) for accrediting programs for professional education in journalism and mass communications in institutions of higher learning expects ACEJMC to require its accredited programs to routinely provide reliable information to the public on their performance, including student achievement as determined by the institution or program.

Email questions to creinardy@ku.edu.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Kansas State University: Heather Woods is serving as interim director of the Miller School of Media and Communication. She succeeds Colene Lind, who had served as interim director following Greg Paul's retirement.

University of Nevada, Reno: Gi W. Yun was named dean of the Donald W. Reynolds School of Journalism and Center for Advanced Media Studies, effective Jan. 1. He succeeds Al Stavitsky, who returned to the faculty as professor.

University of Puerto Rico-Arecibo: Emanuel Gutiérrez Pérez was named interim director of the Department of Tele Radial Communication. He succeeds interim director Jose L. Soto Colon.

Zayed University: James Piecowye was named dean of the College of Communication and Media Sciences.