



## National Communication Association

Formerly Speech Communication Association

National Office  
1765 N Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20036

202-464-4622  
fax 202-464-4600  
<http://www.natcom.org>

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### **College communication departments across the country integrate the promotion of tolerance into teaching and research – *Communicating Common Ground***

#### ***Partnerships forged between campuses and communities***

Communication department faculty and students are taking part in a national service-learning project designed to foster respect and acceptance through multicultural education. Communicating Common Ground (CCG) is a cooperative project initiated several years ago by the National Communication Association (NCA), the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), the American Association for Higher Education (AAHE), and Campus Compact (CC). Now recruiting new partnerships for its fourth year, the project has already spawned over 50 partnerships across the nation. Each local partnership, under the direction of a faculty member, engages communication college students and faculty with K-12 teachers and students or youth from community groups in learning activities designed to advance multicultural education, appreciation of diversity, and the creation of communities in which hate, hate speech, and hate crimes do not exist. The aim of this national initiative is to better educate youth to embrace the advantages of a diverse society, forward engaged relationships between higher education and elementary/secondary education, and promote service learning as an effective approach to enhancing student learning and civic responsibility. The course-based projects of these partnerships are supporting safer communities and encouraging civic responsibility

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by reducing the prejudices and misunderstandings that lead to miscommunication and hateful acts. *SPLC Teaching Tolerance* materials serve as an important resource for this national effort ([www.tolerance.org/](http://www.tolerance.org/)).

Additional information about CCG is available on the NCA home page at:

<http://www.natcom.org/Instruction/CCG/ccg.htm>

**Campus Project Directors :**

Adelina Gomez & Maryanne Wanca-Thibault, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs

Adonis D. Ferreira, University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth

Alberto Gonzalez, Radhika Gajjala, & Bettina Heinz, Bowling Green State University

Alma Hall, Georgetown College

Ann Burnett, North Dakota State University

Barbara L. Clinton, Highline Community College

Bonnie Sierlecki, Ripon College

Carol Spears, Santa Barbara City College

Cheryl Lossie & Terry Warburton, Edinboro University

Christopher Poulos, University of North Carolina Greensboro

Claire Deal, Hampden-Sydney College

Colleen Garside, Weber State University

Denise Bostdorff, College of Wooster

Detine Bowers, Huston-Tillotson College

Don R. Swanson, Monmouth University

Dreama Moon, California State University -- San Marcos

Elaine B. Jenks, West Chester University

Gordon R. Mitchell, University of Pittsburgh

(MORE)

Janell Glance & Kim Gyuran, Modesto Junior College

Jeanette Drake, University of Findlay

Jeanne E. Clark, Catherine Collins, & David Douglass, Willamette University

Joel Litvin, Bridgewater State College

Karen Sindelar, Coe College

Katherine Kinnick, Kennesaw State University

Kathie Wilcox, Lewis-Clark State College

Kathryn Sorrells, California State University, Northridge

Kim Powell, Luther College

Kim-Alla Swanton, University at Buffalo

Kimberly Cuny, University of North Carolina Greensboro

Laura Manning, Highline Community College

Laurel B. Kennedy, Denison University

Leda Cooks, University of Massachusetts

Lisa M. Gring-Pemble & Janette Kenner Muir, New Century College, George Mason University

Lori Walters-Kramer, Plattsburgh State University

Mary Lahman, Manchester College

Mary M. Eicholtz, University of Arkansas at Little Rock

Mary S. Vaughn, Belmont University

Michael S. Waltman, University of North Carolina

Nancy Vader-McCormick, Delta College

Nola J. Heidlebaugh, SUNY Oswego

Patty Chantrill, Eastern Washington University

Radhika Gajjala & Theresa Dunn, Bowling Green State University

(MORE)

Richard A. Bayha & Susan Emel, Baker University

Roy Schwartzman, Northwest Missouri State University

Scott Dillard, Georgia College and State University

Scott Turcott, Indiana Wesleyan University

Shannon Proctor, Highline Community College

Shelly Schaefer Hinck, Central Michigan University

Shirley Willihnganz & Ede Warner, University of Louisville

Steven C. Rhodes & Suzanne Davis, Western Michigan University

Steven Carr, Indiana University - Purdue University Fort Wayne

Sue Ellen Christian, Western Michigan University

Tasha Souza, Humboldt State University

Tina Kistler, Santa Barbara City College

Todd Allen, Geneva College

Valerie Felita Kinloch, University of Houston-Downtown

### **Media Contact**

Project Directors, as listed, or:

Sherry Morreale, Associate Director

National Communication Association

202-464-4622

[smorreale@natcom.org](mailto:smorreale@natcom.org)