

Candidate Statement: Pamela Lannutti

In 2001, when I began my first academic appointment, one of the most significant moments was when a dear colleague, Dr. Bonnie Jefferson, explained why I needed to make attending the annual ECA convention a part of my life. Bonnie told me ECA would be a place where I would grow as a scholar, make connections with amazing colleagues, and foster my students' engagement with our field. After having been actively involved with ECA for the past 18 years, I can confidently report that Bonnie was correct. ECA has been an incredibly important part of my development as a scholar, teacher, and member of our field and a place where my students have flourished. I am grateful for ECA. I am committed to ECA. I love ECA. I am honored to be a candidate for ECA First Vice President Elect-Select.

Throughout my involvement with ECA, I have been happy to serve in various roles within our organization. I was honored to be named an ECA Distinguished Research Fellow and currently serve as chair of the Distinguished Research Fellow group. I have served as chair for the Interpersonal Communication Interest Group. Perhaps most significantly, I served as Editor of *Communication Quarterly*. As *Communication Quarterly* Editor, I gained a deeper understanding of and appreciation for the wide range of research interests among the members of our organization and the high-quality research that our members are producing. I believe that understanding the diverse and impactful work of our ECA colleagues will help me be a strong leader for our organization. The *Communication Quarterly* editorship also provides a kind of extended internship in ECA administration. As Editor, I served for many years on the ECA Publications Committee, the ECA Finance Committee, the ECA Executive Council and the Centennial Scholarship Selection Committee. My service on these committees taught me a great deal about how our organization functions and made me feel confident and excited about the possibility of planning our convention and serving in future leadership roles within ECA.

As First Vice President Elect-Select, I want to build on the strengths of our organization and see four areas that would serve as the focus of my leadership service. First, I want to work to support and expand ECA as a diverse and inclusive organization. The summer of 2019 has been a time of intense discussion about issues of diversity and inclusion in our field. I believe that ECA needs to reflect upon and assess our diversity and inclusion strengths and identify ways that we could be more inclusive as an organization. As a member of the LGBTQ community, I have always felt welcomed and supported within ECA. I want to ensure that this sense of belonging and support for diverse identities, perspectives, and backgrounds is extended to all our members and becomes a hallmark of our outreach to potential new members.

Second, I want to build upon the strong foundations for professional development within ECA. ECA is a place for scholars and teachers to engage in discussions about their work and learn from one another to build our professional competencies. I am committed to continuing and expanding these opportunities. I am excited about our 2020 convention and the research methods workshops that Dr. Waldeck and Dr. Goodboy have organized. I want to create more opportunities like these for the benefit of our members at the convention I plan and beyond.

Third, I want to invest my energy in finding ways for ECA to be more of a presence and resource in the professional lives of our members throughout the year. Our Spring annual convention is a wonderful event, but I think that for many of our members, ECA is only “once a year.” I believe we can find ways to invest financial, planning and intellectual resources to expand the impact of our organization for our members throughout the year. Whether through the sponsorship and organization of online workshops, mini-conferences, scholarship and teaching retreats, community outreach projects or the development of professional resources, I want to work to make ECA a bigger part of our members’ lives while attracting new members through the expansion of our programs and resources.

Fourth, I want to help grow our membership. In recent years, our membership numbers have been decreasing. Above, I have touched on ways that a focus on diversity and inclusion and expansion of our programs and resources may attract new members, but I also want to engage in direct outreach with the colleges and universities within our region that are not very engaged with ECA. I want to better understand why some graduate programs in our region have not had robust engagement with ECA and work to encourage increased involvement. I also want to better understand how we can encourage more involvement from communication faculty and students at 2- and 4- year undergraduate programs.

I am excited about the possibility of serving as ECA First Vice President Elect-Select. I am grateful for your consideration of my nomination and I humbly ask for your vote.