

Academic Director Campaign Statement

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I am grateful to be nominated by my BEA colleagues for the position of Academic Director. As an educator, researcher, and media professional with nearly 25 years of continuous BEA membership, I have benefited so much from the professional relationships, creative opportunities, and academic collaboration the association brings. I welcome the opportunity to give back through continued service and leadership.

I am an associate professor and internship director at Kansas State University, where I previously served as associate director for undergraduate studies. My administrative experience includes leading curriculum revisions, developing academic programs, coordinating internships, and supporting the integration of two departments into a unified School of Media and Communication. Before entering higher education, I worked professionally in live television and radio news production. My scholarly and creative work includes published research in media literacy, television news, and emerging technologies, along with award-winning documentary productions.

My involvement with BEA has been a rewarding part of my academic career. I have served in leadership positions for the Festival of Media Arts competitions associated with the News, International, Graduate, Religion, and Production Aesthetics and Criticism divisions. These experiences, along with my participation in BEA research competitions, convention panels, and presentations, have given me an appreciation for the dedication of BEA's volunteer leadership and the importance of its Interest Divisions.

My aspiration to serve as Academic Director comes from a desire to give back to the association that has contributed greatly to my professional development and to support upcoming members in their professional aspirations. I believe BEA's greatest resource is its people, and its continued success depends on creating opportunities for members to contribute their expertise, develop professional relationships, and participate meaningfully in the association.

Supporting the people of BEA's Interest Divisions will be my highest priority. My experience coordinating competitions across several divisions brings understanding to the substantial work involved in recruiting reviewers, managing submissions, coordinating activities, and recognizing scholarly and creative achievements. I will work closely with division chairs to identify their needs, improve communication, share successful practices, and streamline administrative tasks. I will also encourage collaboration among divisions through jointly sponsored convention sessions, professional development opportunities, and initiatives that connect members with shared academic and creative interests.

BEA's transition to the Academic Director structure presents an opportunity to strengthen communication and collaboration throughout the association. My experience helping implement organizational changes in higher education has taught me the importance of building relationships with and listening to stakeholders, establishing clear responsibilities, and developing processes that support rather than complicate their work. I will bring that approach to helping establish effective communication between Interest Divisions and the Board, supporting leadership transitions, and evaluating how the new structure can better serve members over time.

I believe in collaborative leadership that begins with listening, encourages cooperative participation, and recognizes the contributions of all team members. As the new Academic Director role develops, I will advocate for regular opportunities for division leaders to share concerns, exchange ideas, and provide feedback to the Board, helping ensure that the structure evolves in response to the needs of those it serves. I will be honored to bring that philosophy, along with my experience and commitment, to the Academic Director role. I look forward to bringing my experience to serve you and BEA.