

ENTRY GUIDELINES

JUDGING AND WINNING

Entries are judged and scored individually, not against other entries in a category. An entry can receive an Award of Merit or an Award of Excellence based on the scores. By entering and attending the event, you are able to:

- Benchmark your work against the best from other professional communicators
- Receive valuable, qualitative feedback
- Impress clients, those within your organization, and potential employers

WINNERS RECEIVE

- An award to proudly display in your office
- Your name and company name on the IABC/SC website
- Division winners are considered for the annual "Star of the Show" award

CONTEST DETAILS

All entries must have been produced between **June 1, 2019 and the date of entry**. You do not have to be an IABC member to enter. But, members do receive discounted pricing. Here is how to enter:

1. Select a work sample. Tell your best story.
2. Choose a category. You may enter the same work sample in multiple categories.
3. Complete the work plan. Each entry must have a separate work plan.
4. Upload your completed entry* to this website: <http://bit.ly/2HPh8D2>
5. Pay the entry fee with a check, credit card or money order.

*Incomplete entries will be disqualified.

COST

The following fees are per entry and do not include a ticket to the awards ceremony:

- IABC Members: \$75
- Non-members: \$90
- Students: \$25

You can pay these fees with a credit card via PayPal when uploading an entry. If paying by check or money order, send to:

IABC/SC
PO Box 1814
Columbia, SC 29202

JOIN AND SAVE

If you're not an IABC member, save money and become a member today! It's easy - just visit <https://www.iabc.com/membership/> for more information on the benefits of IABC membership.

DEADLINE

The deadline to upload to <http://bit.ly/2020palmettoawards> is **Monday, September 21, 2020 at 5 p.m.**

ABOUT IABC/SC

IABC/SC links organizational business communicators to a global network of communication professionals who develop, establish and adhere to the highest professional standards of quality and innovation in organizational/business communication. The association strives to foster understanding and respect toward integrating communication activities in organizations/businesses.

Visit <http://sc.iabc.com/get-involved/> for more information.

WORK PLAN

A work plan is required for each entry and will count for half of your final score. Each work plan should:

- Provide details about your objectives
- Explain how the project/program was developed
- Showcase results

The work plan must be a single PDF file and may not exceed three pages (minimum of 10-point font) in the format below.

- Category Name: _____
- Category Code (letter and number): _____
- Entry Title: _____
- Entrant's Name: _____
- Entrant's Company or Organization: _____
- Client's Name (if applicable): _____

PROBLEM OR OPPORTUNITY

What was the purpose of this effort? What need or opportunity did it address? How did the need/opportunity affect the organization? In other words: Why did you do what you did?

TARGET AUDIENCE

Describe your intended audience(s) and audience characteristics that caused you to select this solution over other available approaches. In other words: Who are you trying to reach and why?

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

What measurable and/or specific objectives did you set for your project? Why did you choose the medium you used? In other words: How would you know if and when you succeeded?

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION AND PRODUCTION

Describe the chosen product/approach, its elements, schedules, budget, limitations, available resources, etc. How did you deal with any limits or challenges that could have affected the results? In other words: How did you do what you did?

RESULTS AND EVALUATION

What indicators did you use to measure each objective? What results were achieved? In other words: How successful were you?

WORK SAMPLE

After you submit your work plan, you will be able to upload a maximum of five work sample files. Your sample files must be in PDF, PNG, JPG, GIF, MP4, TIF, WAV, WMV, M4V, or MOV formats. If you want to submit more than five work samples, you should combine them into fewer files. Each file is limited to 2 GB (2,000 MB) in size.

QUESTIONS

Contact the Palmetto Awards Chair, Emily Eckert, at emily@npstrat.com or 443.506.2336.

AWARD CATEGORIES

DIVISION 1

COMMUNICATION MANAGEMENT

This division covers project, programs and campaigns that are guided by a communication strategy. Entries to this division can be submitted by any type of organization, from governments to retail companies to services such as utilities and health care. Entrants must demonstrate how their project applied a full range of planning and management skills, including research, analysis, strategy, tactical implementation and evaluation. Entries may include a wide range of communication materials. (A single tactical execution element that formed part of a communication program may also be entered in the Communication Skills division.)

CATEGORY 1

INTERNAL COMMUNICATION

- Programs or strategies targeted at employee or member audiences
- Includes programs that create awareness and influence opinion or behavior change, including those focused on ethics, morale, internal culture or change management
- May involve improving employee understanding and alignment with business direction, improving face-to-face communication, preparing employees for change, integration of organizational cultures caused by an acquisition or downsizing, an internal brand ambassador program, or a program to inspire pride in the organization
- Includes integrated campaigns

CATEGORY 2

EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT

- Local, regional, national or international programs or strategies that profile the role of strategic communication as a driver in improving employee engagement
- Entries must focus on the communication elements of these programs, which could include contribution to program development and promotion through various communication vehicles and channels
- May include employee recognition and employee volunteer programs, including programs that benefit charitable or philanthropic causes, or that recognize employees' organizational contributions or achievements in the organization

CATEGORY 3

HUMAN RESOURCES AND BENEFITS COMMUNICATION

- Programs or strategies targeted at internal audiences that relate to communication of health and welfare, savings and pension, stocks and compensation, or recruitment and retention

CATEGORY 4

CHANGE COMMUNICATION

- Communication strategies that support organizational change
- May be directed at internal or external audiences or integrated campaigns

CATEGORY 5

SAFETY COMMUNICATION

- Programs or strategies that focus on improving awareness, understanding and behaviors related to safety issues within an organization
- May be directed at internal or external audiences, or integrated campaigns

CATEGORY 6

LEADERSHIP COMMUNICATION

- Programs or strategies that help leaders become more effective communicators, improve the quality of leadership communication within an organization, or improve leader knowledge and ability to use communication as a business driver
- Strategies may include toolkits with speaking notes, videos, games or other tools that help leaders communicate a specific topic, and special publications with information and support for leadership communication

CATEGORY 7

MARKETING, ADVERTISING AND BRAND COMMUNICATION

- May include various activities designed to sell products, services, destinations, organizations or ideas to external audience, and is generally delivered through a variety of communication vehicles and channels
- Strategies for new brands and the repositioning of existing brands in relationship to internal and external audiences
- May include brand characteristics and attributes, changes to corporate identities and design solutions that address the challenges of brand communication (must be more than a logo redesign)
- Strategic advertising campaigns designed to build brand awareness, influence opinion, motivate audience behaviors, or sell products and services
- May be directed at internal or external audiences, or integrated campaigns

CATEGORY 8

CUSTOMER RELATIONS

- Strategies or ongoing programs targeted at customer audiences that educate, inform, engage or otherwise connect the organization and its employees to the customer
- Programs may influence reputation, brand awareness and loyalty, and/or market position
- May include relationship management, experience standards or appreciation programs; however, the program must be focused on communication elements

CATEGORY 9

MEDIA RELATIONS

- Strategies or ongoing programs that use news media as the primary channel to reach target audiences and seek to influence awareness, understanding and opinion, or motivate action
- Should demonstrate quality of media coverage and its impact on the organization – quantity of media stories alone is not considered a valid measurement in this category

CATEGORY 10

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

- A one-time or ongoing program that enhances stakeholder understanding of issues affecting business operations within the community served
- Seeks to build trust and credibility with stakeholder groups generally through consultation and other communication-based activities
- Tactics and supporting strategies may include formal and informal meetings, town hall discussions, workshops, presentations, open houses, and electronic and printed material

CATEGORY 11

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS & PUBLIC AFFAIRS

- Short or long-term programs that influence the opinion or actions of government bodies or agencies
- May seek to create awareness, or influence attitudes and behaviors of decision-makers toward the organization or industry

CATEGORY 12

GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATION

- Programs and strategies specific to government organizations at the municipal, state, provincial, regional, federal, national or international level
- May be targeted to one or more audiences, and include internal, external or integrated communication strategies or programs

CATEGORY 13

FINANCIAL COMMUNICATION AND INVESTOR RELATIONS

- Entails strategies, tactics and tools used to share financial data and recommendations with investors and other interested parties
- Includes investor relations functions that integrate finance, communication, marketing and securities laws compliance to enable effective two-way communication between a company, the financial community, and stakeholders

AWARD CATEGORIES - CONT.

CATEGORY 14

ISSUES MANAGEMENT AND CRISIS COMMUNICATION

- Programs targeted at external and/or internal audiences that address trends, issues and/or attitudes that have a significant impact on an organization, such as labor relations, crises, mergers, acquisitions, public policy or environmental concerns
- Programs may demonstrate proactive planning and preventative action during an extraordinary event, or show the actions taken to address trends, issues and interest group attitudes that have a major impact on an organization

CATEGORY 15

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

- Programs or strategies that communicate social responsibility and encourage positive actions while building awareness and reputation and positioning the organization as a good corporate citizen
- May be targeted to multiple audiences and influence share price and customer loyalty, retention and recruitment, operational efficiency and sales
- Generally long-term and focused on enhancing the well-being of communities and populations through causes such as the environment, energy sustainability, food safety, economic stability, employment, poverty reduction, literacy, education and health, cultural preservation, and indigenous and heritage protection
- May be directed at internal or external audiences, or integrated campaigns

CATEGORY 16

NONPROFIT CAMPAIGNS

- Programs recognizing the particular challenges of the nonprofit sector
- May include multiple internal or external audiences
- Promote nonprofit organizations or causes
- May be paid-for projects or pro-bono projects donated to the client by an organization, agency or consultant; entries will generally have a small budget or none at all
- May be directed at internal or external audiences, or integrated campaigns

CATEGORY 17

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

- Campaigns or programs of work aimed at building a culture of inclusion for an organization with internal or external stakeholders (or both)
- Entries must focus on the communication elements of diversity and inclusion programs, which could include specific topic-based initiatives, special events or wider organizational strategies to advance diversity and inclusion aims

CATEGORY 18

COMMUNICATION MANAGEMENT (STUDENT ENTRY)

- Entries to any category in this division submitted by a student

DIVISION 2

COMMUNICATION RESEARCH

Entries in this division recognize the importance of research and measurement as a foundation for strategic communication work and a competency that's integral to success throughout the career of a communication professional. A clear understanding of why the research was needed demonstrates its strategic value to an organization.

CATEGORY 19

COMMUNICATION RESEARCH

- Formative research conducted during the initial stages of the strategic communication planning process that benchmarks internal audience opinions or behaviors, profiles the marketplace or internal communication environment in which the organization operates, aligns best practices against organizational needs or informs strategic direction for internal communication programs
- May include audience analysis, competitive benchmarking, secondary research related to best practices, program or product test markets, and reputation or brand studies

CATEGORY 20

COMMUNICATION RESEARCH (STUDENT ENTRY)

- Entries to any category in this division submitted by a student

DIVISION 3

COMMUNICATION TRAINING AND EDUCATION

This division recognizes the mentorship and education role of consultants and communicators in developing and delivering workshops, classes, seminars or training that educates an audience about any aspect of the communication profession. This division includes all communication disciplines and professional competencies. Entries in this division must demonstrate:

- Alignment of learning outcomes to goals and objectives
- Alignment of assessments to specific learning outcomes
- Theories and practices of educational excellence
- Impact outside the classroom

CATEGORY 21

COMMUNICATION TRAINING AND EDUCATION

- Training or educational programs delivered to an internal or external audience that help to improve their communication competencies
 - For internal audiences, this may include supervisor/manager/leader training in communication skills, presentation skills and employee ambassador development, in addition to media training, speaker's bureau training, and other communication disciplines
 - For external audiences, this may include presentations for conferences, university classes, seminars or workshops, as well as media and executive coaching

CATEGORY 22

COMMUNICATION TRAINING AND EDUCATION

(STUDENT ENTRY)

- Entries to any category in this division submitted by a student

DIVISION 4

COMMUNICATION SKILLS

The communication skills division includes marketing and communication elements that showcase technical skills such as editing, writing, design and multi-media production. Entries in this division are generally tactical in nature. Entrants must demonstrate strategic alignment, the creative process and measurable results.

CATEGORY 23

SPECIAL & EXPERIENTIAL EVENTS

- Planning and execution of a special and experiential event for an internal or external audience
 - For internal audiences, this may include employee appreciation events, or events that mark a significant occasion such as an anniversary, internal conference or meeting, or a celebration or special retirement
 - For external audiences, this may include conferences, workshops, anniversaries, official openings, product launches, road shows and customer events

CATEGORY 24

COMMUNICATION FOR THE WEB

- Online communication vehicles that are produced for internal or external audiences
- Electronic and interactive communication channels such as websites, intranets, online stores and microsites

AWARD CATEGORIES - CONT.

CATEGORY 25

AUDIO/VISUAL

- Communication vehicles produced using sound, images, video, film, slides, CDs or a combination of these elements
- May include video, audio, podcasts, PowerPoint or other presentations, infographics, interactive content and films
- Does not include advertising commercials

CATEGORY 26

SOCIAL MEDIA

- Engages internal and external audiences in conversation through social media
- Encompasses tools and practices that allow individuals and groups to collaborate and share knowledge and experiences online
- May use conversation-enabled publishing platforms such as blogs and podcasts, social networks such as Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat, democratized content networks such as wikis and message boards, content-sharing sites such as YouTube and Flickr, enterprise social networks such as Yammer, Stack and Jive, and virtual networking platforms

CATEGORY 27

PUBLICATIONS

- Publications produced for internal or external audiences in all formats, including hard copy and electronic
- May include magazines, newspapers, newsletters or tabloids, annual reports, books, special publications, brochures and other advertising material, e-newsletters and similar material

CATEGORY 28

WRITING

This category includes writing in both print and electronic formats.

JOURNALISM

- Material written in which the news media is the primary communication channel
- May include, but not limited to, editorials, interpretive/expository articles, news releases and feature stories

CORPORATE WRITING

- Material written primarily for use by an organization to inform or educate employees or external stakeholders
- May include recurring features or columns, magazines, newsletters, internal or special publications, stand-alone features, speeches and presentations, executive correspondence, scripts for corporate use, writing for the intranet, internal publications, technical writing, and annual and special reports

PROMOTIONAL WRITING

- Material written to persuade customers, consumers, employees or stakeholders to adopt a point of view, or to purchase goods or services
- May include commercials, advertising, marketing or sales promotion material, advertorials and writing for the Web

NON-PROFIT WRITING

- Material written to promote nonprofit organizations, including IABC regional and chapter events

SPECIAL PROJECTS WRITING

- Books (fiction and nonfiction), educational material, scripts for theatrical use, and other writing projects not covered above

CATEGORY 29

COMMUNICATION SKILLS (STUDENT ENTRY)

- Entries to any category in this division submitted by a student