

Hello Colleagues:

My name is Laura Smith. I hope you'll consider voting for me to join AEJMC's Standing Committee on Teaching . I LOVE teaching and would relish the opportunity to represent you in the years ahead.

For those of you who don't know me, I've been an active member of our division since 2000, when I first entered my grad program at UT-Austin. I've served in every role in our division's leadership, including Head of the division and three years as teaching chair. I'm also an active member in MAC (Minorities and Communication). Now, I'd really like to move up into AEJMC leadership in my area of expertise – journalism education.

My industry background is in TV news (mostly as a producer – newscast, special projects & EP). But I've been teaching for more than 20 years now. I've taught both undergraduate and graduate courses in four universities, including UofSC, UT-Austin, Huston-Tillotson University (an HBCU in Austin, Texas) and St. Edward's University (a private, Catholic liberal arts University in Austin, TX), working extensively with underrepresented and first-generation college students. And I teach it all - from news writing and visual storytelling, to newscast production and podcasting, to media management. In 2019, I won my University's highest teaching honor for lecturers like myself – the *Garnet Apple Award for Teaching Innovation*.

I also study teaching effectiveness. For the past five years, I've chaired my School's Assessment Committee, supervising the collection, analysis and reporting of all learning outcome data for all SIX of our School's undergraduate majors. I regularly discuss best practices and present related research at AEJMC and other conferences... including ONA and BEA.

This is my third time just trying to get ON the ballot for a position on AEJ's Teaching committee. It's incredibly competitive to make it this far. I've learned that WINNING this position is even tougher. I would really appreciate your consideration! It would also be great if you'd promote my candidacy to your friends and colleagues across the AEJMC spectrum.

Meantime, I wish you all the best of luck in these challenging Covid-impacted times. Being a good teacher today is truly a labor of love! If you have any questions for me, feel free to reach out at: lksmith@sc.edu