



ASSOCIATION FOR
EDUCATIONAL
COMMUNICATIONS &
TECHNOLOGY

LEADING LEARNING for CHANGE



AECT International Convention

Jacksonville, Florida November 6–11, 2017

A General Scaffold for Presidential Session Proposals in 2017

Presidential sessions are an open and inclusive peer reviewed process for JAX 2017, and they are important to AECT.

I welcome and encourage the many people asking about submitting **Presidential Session** Proposals this year to assure that the work/session will be vibrant and of interest and value to the widest spectrum of AECT members from across all Divisions. This document offers general guidelines for prospective Presidential Session authors. A Presidential session should be inclusive and useful to a cross section of our diverse membership - theoreticians, practitioners and leaders young and old in our field, found in many sectors, practicing in many nations and cultures.

Based on good questions emerging from authors, I offer some guidance for proposal authors to help in conceptualizing such an important proposal itself. (See the Call / Session types list too) – A few words about the logic, convention theme this year, and audience interaction.

1. Proposal Format:

It matters that Presidential session proposals this year, which will be peer reviewed, use a succinct, clear *format* for the proposal. For research or evidence based sessions that proposal format could be organized not unlike, for example, concurrent sessions with: a *challenge* (research problem), a critical literature review leading to your *theoretical framework*, a *methodology* explanation followed by great *findings* and *analysis* section leading to vibrant *recommendations* from the research. In a proposal, you can also clearly identify the *audience interaction dynamics you propose for a 60 minute videotaped event*. If evidence / research is not what's being offered per se, that 'scholarly argument' format of course would be innovated to suit your context –say, if praxis is your focus.

2. A Clear Link to the Convention Theme: “Leading Learning for Change”

From member feedback: Accepted Presidential proposals and events will link directly and transparently to the conference theme this year as well, and ours is: “*Leading Learning for Change*”. What does that mean, you wonder? It's a touchstone for everyone to assure that all Presidential and Special sessions touch these three important topics our members have defined – enabling wider conversations about leading, learning and change in our field. On understanding the theme and its elements, here is a little elaboration to help.

LEADING:

To link your work to the theme and show how you are indeed you could ask yourself: Who is **leading**? Leading what, specifically? Make that clear for your audience. You are leading something, involving people and systems, ideas and some context. Simply define that context and your responsibility to create and lead change based on the proposed work/argument, etc. Here, your proposal indicates that you are taking responsibility for something and declaring that.

LEARNING:

In education, learning is a result of good leadership. Make it clear in the proposal what a diverse large group of AECT members or others in your work might learn from you – or what they might be are **learning** from this leadership and from your subject work/proposed event. In other words, ask: What could people in your session learn, or should they



learn? Who learns what from the work you propose to present – in the real world too? Define learning or your intentions for learning in your proposal clearly. So “Learners” include those in the Presidential Session room with you (and online) and of course, and learners found in the context of your subject work in the proposal too. In your proposal, let us know the intended learning outcome from your subject work and for those in the room. For example if your research finds X, learners are, or should learn Y as an outcome. People love seeing your clear or clearly intended outcomes from your well led efforts, thinking and work (imagined, real or ideal) as they do when we present leadership research, for example.

CHANGE:

Your leadership and work impacts people and systems you identify in a connected world. Tell us how change happens, or could happen and why this matters in your proposal.

Attendees want to know who’s involved (people, groups, institutions, governments, nations) and why this matters from your work, and for their work. If you lead X and people learn Y from it (or could learn), what **change** happens (or could happen, and why does that matter, we wonder? What systems are impacted? How? Why? How could your work and your presidential event lead to imagined change, actual change or ideal changes, specifically? Great leaders can identify what they’re leading and how it impacts learners in co-connected people, nations, education systems, universities (you pick the boundary). Understanding how you will change the world means that your audience must know your context. Your proposal should make clear specific change found, intended or likely in specific contexts because we have a diverse, global audience at AECT.

I hope this helps you craft your Presidential proposal.

AECT has many Presidential Proposals coming this year that are exceptional – truly vitalizing sets of ideas, evidence or life’s work accounts that demonstrate the kind of great leading we do for learning and change. Some of your presidential session proposals may be accepted outright, we may ask for some shaping, or we could accept them as Special Sessions, promoted as such, and others might be relayed for next year depending on the nature of proposals and scheduling logistics. All presidential sessions will be video-taped and offered online as open access resources. We’ll also widely promote your sessions.

Your new ideas matter so much – celebrate them with us in your Presidential or Special Session!

3. SUBMISSION:

Submit your Presidential Proposal by using our Allacademic system at www.AECT.org. Larry Vernon lvernon@aect.org can provide you with technical guidance.

GOOD LUCK!

I truly *look forward* to your Presidential proposal -- and to attend your vibrant session next fall - in Jacksonville!



Eugene G. Kowch, Ph.D.
President Elect, AECT & Co-Planner with Linda Campion / AECT Jacksonville 2017

