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I am honored to be a candidate in the BEA Board of Directors District Representative election. I attended my first BEA Convention in 1996 as my paper earned “Second Place Debut Paper” in the Management and Sales Division. I attended BEA Conventions annually until 2004, when my professional development shifted from a full-time faculty member to academic administration and I was selected to be a Fellow in the Journalism Leadership Institute for Diversity (JLID). JLID was a program sponsored by the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) and the Association of Schools in Journalism and Mass Communication (ASJMC). JLID and its most recent iteration, the Institute for Diversity Leadership (IDL) are among the premier programs for advancing women and people of color in journalism and mass communication administration. When I became Vice Dean at Hofstra University (2015), I renewed my BEA membership because of the School’s BEA Institutional Membership and its strong student involvement in the Festival of Media Arts. In 2016 I was humbled when asked to present my research in BEA’s Podium Series. The following year (2017), I began serving on the BEA Research Committee and am now in my second term. I enjoy my work on this committee which includes screening applications for the Harwood Dissertation and the BEA Lifetime Achievement Awards.

Outside of BEA, I served on the AEJMC Board. This honor came from AEJMC members who twice elected me to serve on the standing committee on Professional Freedom and Responsibility (PF&R)—which has been fittingly described as the “conscience of AEJMC.” I also was nominated in two consecutive years—2014 and 2015—to be one of two candidates for AEJMC Vice President. Although I did not win either election, I am proud of my national leadership in journalism and mass communication education and pledge to bring committed leadership to the BEA Board of Directors as the District 8 Representative.

I am familiar with the duties and responsibilities of BEA District Representatives and will execute them faithfully to the best of my abilities. My first obligation is to **advance BEA’s mission** as the “premier international academic organization” and contribute to its ability to provide outlets for discussion and analysis of social issues while helping students develop into successful academic and professional leaders. One way that I can help BEA fulfill its mission is to **identify and recruit new members** in all membership categories. Therefore, my first goal is to **grow the current membership** (of 25) in District 8 by providing outreach to universities outside of the U.S. that have BEA members as well as to international universities that have electronic media, journalism and mass communication programs. I will draw upon my contacts in the MENA region as well as my network of international connections from AEJMC, ICA, and other associations to build a more robust district. For example, the district can **host a networking event** during the BEA Convention for our international members. I would encourage District 8 members to **recruit their colleagues** and **serve on BEA committees and interest divisions**.

Any BEA member can attest to the large contingent of international attendees of the NAB Show. I would like to work with the BEA Board of Directors and members of District 8 to **pursue outreach** efforts that encourage international members and companies to join BEA. My experiences in fundraising and development will assist me in **soliciting corporate contributions** for BEA activities. For example, my college’s National Advisory Council (NAC) is comprised of representatives from media corporations such as CNN International, Bloomberg News, and Sky News Arabia. I already have asked for and received NAC support for our students’ travel to BEA’s Festival of Media Arts and other student competitions.

In conclusion, as dean of a college of communication and media in the Middle East, I have the leadership experience and access to a variety of international organizations, educators, and practitioners that will allow me to effectively represent the District 8 constituency and strengthen its programs, activities, research, and outreach.