

CANDIDATE STATEMENT: BEA INTEREST DIVISION REPRESENTATIVE
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It is an honor to be nominated for the Interest Division Representative (IDR) of the Broadcast Education Association (BEA). Our dynamic broadcasting and media field has increasingly favored diversity, convergence, and internationalization. This is indeed an exciting time to serve the BEA community!

Why did I accept the nomination to run for the BEA IDR? First and foremost, the BEA has long served as my primary intellectual and professional “home”. I presented at a BEA conference (and got my first Top Paper Award) in my first year in graduate school and have enthusiastically attended each of the 15 conferences since then. Through the years, my service to BEA has included leadership as Division Chair of the Management, Marketing & Programming Division, service to the ad hoc committee for research enhancement, as reviewer for BEA conferences and journals, and initiatives to build collaborations with international partners. BEA is more to me than a great association with a fantastic annual conference; it is a great *community* with many terrific friends and colleagues who have helped me grow as a teacher and scholar. If elected IDR, I will continue to contribute to BEA by helping media educators, scholars, practitioners, and students with all backgrounds and interests – from all regions/geographic locations – feel welcome and at home. I would love to give back to my BEA in this role.

My priorities. Our association works the best when we create supportive professional climates within our community. If elected IDR, I aim to represent each division of BEA equally, and ensure ideas and voices from all divisions, people and perspectives are heard and valued. I will maintain proactive communication and create effective processes to collect and disseminate information as clearly and timely as possible. Promoting diversity and fostering an inclusive environment of respect, kindness, purpose and caring is my goal and reason to serve as BEA IDR. In addition, I hope to contribute a stronger institutional voice in ongoing discussions about the role of broadcasting and media in society. We have an incredibly rich community with expertise on a great variety of topics. BEA’s 19 divisions are a testimony to this richness. This expertise should be shared, not only with our students and fellow educators, but widely. Thus, working with all division leaders, I aim to increase the visibility of divisional activities, research, productions and panels, build and enrich the brand of each division, recognize excellence, as well as promote relevance. I envision strengthening our conference planning by increasing opportunities for divisions to propose collaborative events, launch new initiatives that bring industry and the academic community closer together, and foster collaborations with international scholars and organizational partners.

About me. I’m Professor and Graduate Director in the School of Emerging Media & Technology, and the School of Media & Journalism at Kent State University. My teaching and research have focused on media management, sport communication, and new media technology. In addition to serving for my beloved BEA, I have held leadership positions at ICA. I am also an Academic Referee for the International Olympic Committee, and a Faculty Fellow of the TV Academy, IRTS, NATPE, and Scripps Howard Entrepreneurship Institute.