

Technical and Scientific Communications Committee

In today's rapidly changing world, there is a growing need for technical and scientific writers who can communicate clearly and succinctly to professionals and lay persons. Unfortunately, teaching at all levels has not kept up with this need, concentrating instead on the traditional forms of creative and informational writing. NCTE should be leading the movement to increase teachers' interest and skill in teaching technical and scientific writing.

Charge: *To play a prominent role in increasing our professional community's awareness and skill in teaching technical and scientific communication by*

- *holding an open committee meeting and presenting awards at the [NCTE Annual Convention](#),*
- *recommending experts in the field who could author NCTE publications, develop online courses or digital learning experiences, and/or speak at the annual convention, and*
- *suggesting opportunities to collaborate with other professional or scholarly organizations on the generation or dissemination of information about technical and scientific communication to teachers of all disciplines.*

[Technical and Scientific Communication Awards](#) (Sponsored by the Technical and Scientific Communication Committee)

What major actions or projects have been completed by your group since July 1, 2008?

1. In keeping with the committee's new mandate to enhance the presence of technical and scientific communication at the NCTE annual convention, the committee scheduled its meeting at the convention as "open" to all attendees.
2. The committee collaborated on three proposals for the '09 NCTE convention in an effort to reach out to constituents in secondary education and teacher education. One of the proposals targeted how the technical and scientific communication community could contribute to the National Day on Writing.
3. The committee will present a roundtable at the '09 annual meeting entitled "Technical Communication and 21st Century Literacies: A Roundtable for the Secondary English Education Community." The session represents collaboration across four universities involving teachers of technical communication and teachers of English education.
4. The committee carried out the selection process for the NCTE Awards in Technical and Scientific Communication, involving six different awards for articles and books.

What projects, initiatives, or studies are "in progress" at this time?

1. The committee is pursuing collaboration with the Association of Teachers of Technical Communication to spearhead greater participation of ATTW members at the NCTE convention, and thus enhance outreach to secondary education and English education teachers. The collaboration should result in at least two proposals for sessions each year at the NCTE convention.
2. The committee will be pursuing publishing opportunities with the *English Journal*. Specifically, the committee will be proposing (to the editor) a column (2-4 times per year) in the journal devoted to technical and scientific communication, addressing the relevance of the area to secondary education and teacher training programs, with ideas for helping teachers envision a broader writing curriculum.

3. The committee will also be pursuing a proposal for a special issue of *The Technical Writing Teacher* devoted to spearheading initiatives that bridge technical/professional communication, secondary education, and teacher training.
4. The committee will continue to oversee the NCTE Awards in Technical and Scientific Communication.

Strategic Governance: Over the past few years, the NCTE Executive Committee has established outcomes and priorities relating to these key topics in our field: Multimodal Literacy and Technology, Research and Teaching, English Language Learners, Professional Development, Closing the Achievement Gap, Reading Research, 21st Century Literacies, Meeting the Needs of Audiences Currently Unserved/Underserved by NCTE, Attracting, Supporting, and Advancing Early Career Educators, and International Involvement, "Global English", and NCTE. Does your group have research findings or suggestions to contribute that are relevant to on-going work on these strategic governance topics?

Charlotte Thralls, Chair