



NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 5 • SEPTEMBER 2025



Creating S.P.A.C.E

Staff Professionals Across the Continuum of Education

THANK YOU FROM SPACE!

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

I want to start by sharing my gratitude for all of you. Your participation in our virtual communities has been inspiring, and it's the collective energy of our members that makes SPACE such a meaningful place to connect, share, and grow together. Thank you for showing up, engaging, and supporting one another across the continuum of education for the important work that we do.

*I'm also excited to welcome some wonderful new colleagues to the SPACE National Section Leadership Team! Please join me in celebrating **Barbara Hildebrand** and **Marisol Britt** as our new Communication Co-Chairs, **Dr. Jenn Handrop, Ed.D.**, as our new Membership Chair, and **Ana Henriquez** as our new Education Program Specialist and AAMC partner. We are so lucky to have them join our leadership team, and I can't wait to see the creativity and care they bring to their roles.*

*At the same time, I want to extend heartfelt thanks to **Laura Frost** for her incredible service as SPACE's very first Membership Coordinator. Laura helped shape this role from the ground up, and her contributions have left a lasting impact on our community. As always, I encourage you to keep connecting with us—whether it's through our virtual spaces, events, or conversations with one another. Your engagement is what keeps SPACE vibrant and welcoming, and we're so glad you're here with us.*

Tyrese Hinkins-Jones, EdS, MEd

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S.P.A.C.E. SUCCESSFULLY PILOTS AWARDS PROGRAM

This past year, **Staff Professionals Across the Continuum of Education (S.P.A.C.E.)** piloted an **awards** program in the Western Group on Educational Affairs to recognize the scholarship and leadership of staff in academic medicine. These awards highlight staff expertise showcased through presentations and posters at the AAMC regional conference, while also honoring faculty who collaborate with staff to advance interprofessional education. The success of the pilot in the Western region has laid the groundwork for the possible expansion to other regions.

Award Criteria

- Presentation or poster accepted at an AAMC regional conference with a staff member as first author
- Emphasis on staff leadership and subject matter expertise
- Awardees present at the conference
- All authors on awarded presentations receive recognition



Congratulations to the 2025 S.P.A.C.E. Awardees!

Presentations included:

- **Best Practices to Help Applicants Tell Their Stories: Utilizing "Other Impactful Experiences (OIE)" in the AMCAS Application Process** (Robin Clay, M.Ed., Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science, Charlene Green, PsyD, UC Davis, Tanisha Price- Johnson, PhD, USC)
- **What Everyone Needs to Know about FERPA** (Teresa L. Cook, M.Ed., USC, Celeste Fowles Nguyen, EdD, Stanford)
- **Designing Dashboards in Assessment and Evaluation as a Continuous Quality Improvement Strategy in Medical Education** (Rocelle S. Estanislao, MA, Kaiser Permanente)
- **Keep Calm and Map On: Overcoming Barriers to LCME Accreditation** (Katie Forkner, Mayo Clinic, Alexis Rossi, AAMC)

Posters included:

- **Nurturing Reflective Practice through Inspiration Trivia** (Pauline Becker, M.A., Stanford School of Medicine)
- **Innovative Approaches in Medical Education: Designing and Implementing Student Dashboards** (Rocelle S. Estanislao, MA, Kaiser Permanente)
- **Latine en Medicine: La Fuerza Within Mentorship** (Crystal Meza, EdD, UC Irvine)
- **Glorious Chaos: Improving the Experience of Stakeholders in Patient & Family-Involved Medical Education** (Kim Osborn, MPA-HA, Stanford)
- ...and more!

The S.P.A.C.E. Awards shine a spotlight on the vital role staff play in shaping the future of medical education, while also celebrating the power of collaboration across roles.

S.P.A.C.E. 2025 Work Plan: Progress and Momentum

DEB BIRNBAUM, MBA

As we move through 2025, SPACE is making solid strides toward our goals, with many projects already completed and several others actively moving forward.

- ✓ We already hosted a successful professional development session spotlighting 2025 Staff Track poster winners—thank you to everyone who made that possible!
- ✓ We supported 2025 regional conference staff sessions by working with AAMC and promoting them to members.

Other initiatives are underway:

- We continue to explore options for staff awards to recognize and support our community, with a promising model already piloted in the Western region. You can read more in this newsletter
- Planning for a Staff Track 2026 Virtual Conference is currently underway.
- Resources are being gathered to support staff who want to submit conference proposals.
- A national survey of medical education staff is being analyzed. Results will be presented at Learn Serve Lead and shared with the med ed community.
- We are leveraging the AAMC virtual community for member engagement.

Looking ahead:

- For those able to attend, S.P.A.C.E. leaders will present at Learn Serve Lead on Staff Professionals as Key Collaborators for Educational Success on Tuesday, November 4th at 10:15 am. The GEA S.P.A.C.E. networking breakfast will be on Monday, November 3 at 7 am.
- Regional S.P.A.C.E. representatives are key liaisons to their executive committees and regional conference planning committees to help ensure staff-related programming will be identified and included in conference programming.

As always, we're committed to supporting the professional growth of staff professionals across the continuum of medical education. Thank you to everyone contributing their time, energy, and ideas to help us build a stronger, more connected community. Stay tuned for our next newsletter!

STAFF TRACK 2026

Save the Date for Staff Track 2026

Watch your email for more information about the next Staff Track, which we hope will be held during the first quarter of 2026. Planning is underway and we're excited to once again offer this fully virtual event designed to elevate staff voices and celebrate the essential role staff play in shaping medical education.



CALL FOR PROPOSALS: 2026 GEA REGIONAL CONFERENCES

GEA REGIONAL CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

Call for Proposals: 2026 GEA Regional Conferences

Proposals are now being accepted for the **2026 GEA Regional Conferences!** Each region – **CGEA, NEGEA, SGEA, and WGEA** – will host its own distinct spring meeting, with submissions collected through a single online portal.

[Submission Guidelines](#)

[Submission Portal](#)

All submissions must follow the structure and format outlined in the session-type guidelines. Proposals will undergo a peer-review process, with reviewers invited between late August and mid-September. Submitting a proposal represents a commitment to attend the associated meeting and present if your proposal is accepted.

If you've ever stared at a blank proposal form wondering “Where do I even start?”—you’re not alone. Submitting a proposal to a medical education conference can feel like navigating a maze of requirements, deadlines, and formatting quirks. But good news: we’ve created a new resource to make that process smoother, smarter, and more successful!

[Creating and Submitting a Successful Conference Proposal](#)

The following are host institutions for 2026. Conference dates will be announced soon:

- CGEA: Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine
- NEGEA: Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine
- SGEA: Tulane University School of Medicine
- WGEA: University of Arizona – Phoenix College of Medicine

The GEA Regional Conferences provide an important opportunity to connect with colleagues, share innovations, and advance scholarship in medical education. Sessions are designed to foster dialogue, support professional growth, and strengthen partnerships across institutions. For questions, please contact gea@aamc.org.

[Helpful Resource: AMEE Guide No. 108: Writing Competitive Research Conference Abstracts \(available via PubMed\)](#)



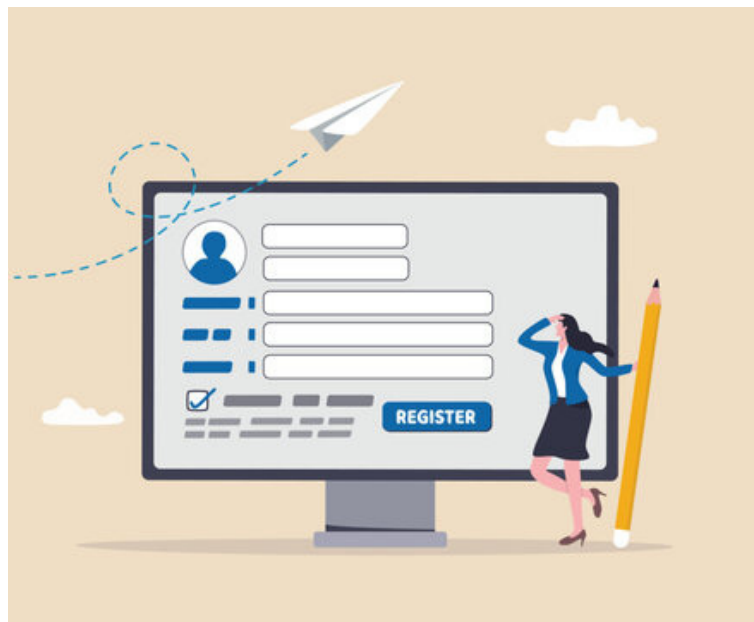
NEW MEMBERSHIP, ENGAGEMENT PLATFORM IS HERE

JENNIFER HANDROP, EDD

To help us better connect and communicate, we are excited to announce the launch of the **AAMC S.P.A.C.E. Virtual Community**. This platform will serve as our primary space for discussions, announcements, resource sharing, and membership management. It's an easy and effective way to stay informed, collaborate with peers, and champion the vital work of staff professionals in medical education.

If you haven't already, we invite you to join the conversation with your [AAMC Virtual Communities Account Login](#).

Thank you to everyone who is already active – your engagement makes this a thriving and supportive community. We look forward to seeing you in the Virtual Community!



Have an event you want S.P.A.C.E to promote? Please send to Marisol Brit and Barbara Hildebrand at marisol.britt@yale.edu and barbara.hildebrand@yale.edu

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