

PRESIDENT - ELECT 2026 ANGELIQUE TUCKER BLACKMON, PH.D.

BALLOT STATEMENT

AEA Presidential Nomination Statement (2028)

I am honored to be considered for the role of President and to offer a leadership vision grounded in futurism, clarity, and sustained member engagement.

My leadership vision centers on helping members see how they belong in the Association's work, how their contributions matter, and how together we can accomplish what none of us could do individually.

Across my career as a national STEM evaluation leader and assessment developer, I have worked at the intersection of rigorous evaluation, human-centered communication, and organizational learning. One lesson has remained consistent: how we communicate shapes who participates, who stays engaged, and how our professional community grows. I have led national STEM evaluation initiatives, supported multi-site and multi-institutional projects representing more than \$26 million in funded work, contributed to the development of research centers and leadership frameworks, and served on national and international panels and presentations that strengthen how evaluation supports institutions, communities, and professional learning ecosystems.



As our field evolves, our association has an opportunity to continue leading, not only in methodological innovation, but also in how we communicate knowledge, structure participation, and support members in understanding the full ecosystem of our shared work.

My leadership approach is grounded in the belief that members engage most fully when they can see how they belong within the Association's work, how their contributions matter, and how together we can accomplish what none of us could do individually. Making engagement structurally visible is both a governance priority and a community-building strategy that strengthens participation across career stages, roles, and sectors of practice. I have worked to integrate this engagement-centered leadership approach across my service to AEA.

I am fully prepared and have institutional and infrastructural support to commit the time, travel, and sustained governance engagement required to serve the Association throughout the presidential leadership cycle.



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Leadership Service within AEA

During my Board tenure, I contributed to initiatives that strengthened governance alignment while expanding AEA's intellectual and creative range. I collaborated on restructuring the Executive Director Performance Review Assessment to better reflect Association priorities and analyzed qualitative findings from the Executive Committee to support this work. As a **member of the inaugural Advisory Group**, I helped review seven years of Board meeting minutes to identify procedures not yet reflected in the Policies and Procedures Manual. Using structured AI-supported review and Python-based analysis, our team reconciled 26 practice-policy gaps. I now serve as Advisory Group Lead, continuing this alignment work.



I also contributed to field-facing initiatives that connect evaluation practice with creativity, leadership, and community engagement. I co-developed the reflection framework for the 2025 Presidential Closing Plenary Courageous Conversations Panel and presented creative scholarship with the Arts-Based TIG exploring how music supports retention of complex evaluation concepts. Through the first joint AEA-CREA Leadership Roundtable, Advancing Values-Conscious Leadership: Navigating Culturally Responsive Evaluation in Times of Complexity and Change, I helped introduce Values Consciousness and Joy as organizing themes for culturally responsive leadership. Following this session, our panel was invited to present the roundtable internationally at the Australian Evaluation Society in April 2026, extending AEA's global leadership presence.

Making Engagement Structurally Visible

A central priority of my presidential service would be advancing an initiative to **make engagement structurally visible across the association**. This work reflects a leadership approach grounded in systems thinking, governance awareness, and evaluation-informed communication practices that help members clearly understand how participation occurs and how their contributions connect to the association's priorities.

Members are most able to engage fully when they can see how governance functions, how Topical Interest Groups (TIGs) and programs (GEDI, MSI, etc.) bolster the association's intellectual and professional ecosystem, and how pathways into leadership and service develop over time. Supporting this kind of visibility helps ensure that transparency is not only provided, but visualized and experienced.

Through collaboration with the Board and Executive Director, I would support exploration of multimodal communication strategies, including **visual infrastructure maps**, concise interpretive **summaries**, and **repeatable communication touchpoints** that make participation pathways easier to navigate and leadership opportunities easier to recognize. Strengthening **structural visibility** increases engagement, supports leadership development across career stages, and reinforces the long-term vitality of our professional community.

My leadership vision centers on three complementary priorities. Strengthening engagement visibility helps ensure that members across career stages, professional roles, methodological traditions, and sectors of practice can clearly see how they belong within and contribute to the Association's shared work.

Lastly, Making **Engagement Structurally Visible** provides a strong foundation for a presidential strand theme centered on engagement visibility, communication innovation, and strengthening participation pathways that help members more clearly see how they contribute to and shape the Association's future.



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Advancing multimodal communication as a core professional strategy

Evaluation is increasingly practiced in digital, visual, and interactive environments. Over the years, I have developed extensive experience designing multimodal evaluation reports, data visualizations, and digital knowledge platforms that sustain engagement and reduce cognitive barriers to participation.

Multimodal communication is not simply a design preference. It is a professional necessity.

By strengthening our association's use of visual infrastructure maps, interactive communication pathways, and accessible reporting formats, we can help members better understand how the association operates and how they can help shape its future. When members understand structure, they participate more confidently. When participation increases, our collective capacity grows.



Strengthening member engagement through infrastructure clarity and sustained transparency



Many members want to participate more fully but do not always see how the association's components connect or where to begin. As President, I would work with the Board and Executive Director to commission Task Force Teams and Advisory Groups to strengthen how members experience connection to the association's structure, priorities, and decision-making processes and to remind members of the significant work put in place by previous presidents, like the 2024 Member Approved Strategic Plan, 2025 commission of the Policy and Procedures Advisory Group and Futuristic Evolution of our association and 2026 relaunch of the Financial Vitality Group.

The work would establish an expectation for each group to maintain ongoing communication and data visualizations that serve as not only transparent signals but also multimodal resources that are **accessible, visible, and sustainable**.

Members today engage with professional organizations across multiple formats and time constraints. When important information is shared only once, primarily through long-form prose or written communication, even strong transparency efforts can remain opaque and difficult to see and navigate. My leadership would support communication strategies that help members clearly, through various communication channels, understand:

- How decisions are made
- How governance and operations interact
- Where participation pathways exist
- How TIGs, commissioned Task Force, Working Groups, and programs contribute to the association's vitality
- How individual members can connect their work to association priorities

This means encouraging the use of **recursive, multimodal communication approaches** that reinforce clarity over time—through visual infrastructure maps, concise interpretive summaries, and repeatable communication touchpoints that make the association's structure easier to understand and engage with.

When members can see how the organization works, they are more likely to participate and sustain engagement in shaping how our organization evolves and increases its overall value proposition in the evaluation and data science ecosystems, both domestically and internationally. More importantly, I think assuring our members, who are leaders in their respective spaces, know that they are **seen, heard, and that they matter, and that we can do the impossible together**. This is the signal I want to release across our organization.

Supporting TIG vitality as engines of innovation, connection, and sustainability

TIGs are among the most vibrant spaces within our association. They are where ideas develop, relationships form, and emerging leaders step forward. TIGs also represent an important part of the association's membership and sustainability ecosystem.

As President, I would work with the Board and Executive Director to ensure that TIG leaders have clear information on how their contributions strengthen the association as a whole and how their leadership supports both intellectual vitality and organizational sustainability. Supporting TIG leadership strengthens the entire association and helps ensure that emerging ideas, leaders, and areas of practice continue to shape AEA's future.

A governance-centered leadership approach

The President serves in a governance role, working closely with the Board and Executive Director to support strategic direction while respecting operational structures. My approach to leadership reflects this distinction. My leadership approach emphasizes consensus-building across methodological traditions, career stages, and professional sectors so that governance decisions reflect the collective strength of the Association's full membership.

I bring experience leading national evaluation initiatives, building collaborative research infrastructures, translating complex systems into accessible visual frameworks, and supporting organizations as they align strategy, communication, and impact.

As President, **I would work to:**

- Strengthen communication between governance and membership through repeatable and accessible multi-channel communication pathways
- Support clearer visual understanding of association structure, priorities, and participation routes
- Advance innovation in how evaluation knowledge and organizational information are shared
- Encourage sustained engagement across career stages and professional roles
- and help position the association as a leader in modeling the future of evaluation communication practice

In my professional practice, our brand position is **Evaluation as a Strategic Growth Engine**. Evaluation is a field that helps institutions learn, adapt, and grow. It serves as a Strategic Growth Engine for organizations and institutions of higher education nationally and internationally. Our association can model those same practices internally by reinforcing clarity, expanding multimodal communication, and supporting members as co-creators of our shared future.

We are exemplary in conveying methodological advancement and evaluation rigor. Now is the time to leverage advances in information and communication technologies to signal our intent to ensure clarity and transparency across our association—from governance to committees, from TIGs to leadership pathways, and from strategic priorities to member participation structures.

Our Association is uniquely positioned to model how evaluation communities can grow stronger, more connected, and more visible together than any one of us could achieve alone.

By making engagement structurally visible, we strengthen not only understanding but connection. And when members can clearly see how the association works, they are better positioned to help shape its direction.

I would be honored to serve as the 2028 AEA President and to lead our association forward with clarity, collaboration, and purpose, in achieving what initially feels impossible, knowing that we can accomplish great things together.



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