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### Facilitating Communication with Diverse Teams

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# Facilitating Communication with Diverse Teams

MaryJane Lewitt

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## **Academic Chairpersons Conference 2020 Presentation Description**

### **Presentation:** Facilitating Communication with Diverse Teams

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### **Relevance to Chairpersons:**

Communication is the ground work for collaboration. Departments and teams work most effectively when everyone is on the same page, however getting there can sometimes be a challenge.

Communication style is part of the culture of any group and thus shifting styles takes forethought and planning. This is even more so within an environment where new options for digital communication often create greater misunderstanding instead of clarity. This session will focus on exposing the pitfalls within common communication structures and providing information on alternative methods that are easy to implement in a variety of environments and situations.

### **Presentation focus:**

This presentation will focus on processes and techniques for clear communication across various teams and departments. This information will be grounded in a conversation about techniques commonly used and exposing some of the pros and cons of these techniques. Various evidence based communication styles will be discussed with concrete examples of how to apply in various settings to improve clarity across a variety of departments and teams.

### **Recommendations to Chairpersons:**

Non- hierarchical communication structures are associated with greater clarity across all levels. These structures can be implemented in a variety of ways under different circumstances. A variety of communication processes should be implemented to improve communication with individualizing the technique to the type of information being communicated.

### **How the Audience will be involved:**

Participants will take part in a communication exercise to experience hierarchical communications from multiple levels.