



# What Can UCEA CONNECT Do for You?

If you are wondering how to keep up with other Association members and your areas of interest, look no further. The answer is UCEA CONNECT, <http://connect.ucea.edu>, the Association’s online portal. Here’s what you can do on UCEA CONNECT today:

## Download Documents

There is a site-wide File library with Association documents of interest to members including conference presentations from this year’s Annual Conference in Boston. Groups can also create and maintain their own file library that is linked from the group’s home page. Move your mouse over UCEA FILE LIBRARY and a submenu of different file libraries to peruse will appear.

## Find Colleagues Online

Did you know that UCEAConnect serves as the Association’s online membership directory? Member profiles are only viewable by registered members. There are several useful tools for searching for individual members or subgroups, and sending emails or messages. You can also see "Who’s Signed in Now?" and start a text chat with a member who is also online.

## Ask Questions, Gain Insights, and Share Your Expertise

There are Association-wide blogs for inquiries and announcements, and there are blogs for every subgroup in UCEA including the six regions, the communities of practice, commissions, and committees. A list of the Association or Community-wide blogs that are open to all members is viewed by clicking UCEA BLOGS/DISCUSSIONS on the site-wide menu at left.

“Blogs” is a new name with a slightly different user interface to have online discussions. The most recent blog post is at the top of each blog; to add or view comments, scroll to the bottom of the post until you see the link Comments. If there are no comments added yet, the link will appear as Comments (0). You can add a comment by clicking the link. If there is one comment, it will display as Comments (1); then you can view or add comments by clicking the link.

To stay connected and informed, subscribe to get email alerts when new content is posted on blogs for groups that interest you. To receive email alerts when a new post is added to a blog, go to the blog page, and click the Subscribe (green checkmark icon) button under the title of the blog. You will get an email alert sent to you whenever a new post is added to that blog. (Alternatively you can get RSS feeds.)

## Stay Up to Date

Look up dates for conferences, seminars, and other meetings, deadlines for awards programs, and more by visiting the ASSOCIATION CALENDAR, found on the site-wide menu at the left. (You can get an RSS feed to the Calendar and the News & Announcements sections.)

Visit group home pages where you can find additional content for UCEA subgroups. There are several ways to get to a group page:

- Click on a link to the group in your profile or another member’s profile
- Click My Groups under MY PROFILE to view a list of group links
- Click on GROUP HOME PAGE LINKS on the site-wide menu at left
- Use the Jump to a Group Homepage ... menu on CONNECT’s home page. Just above the rotating photo gallery.

## Learn More

Are you feeling a bit intimidated and need help learning how to do all of this? This article mentions some, but not all, of the things you can do with UCEA CONNECT today. Detailed step-by-step instructions on how you can use all the features mentioned and more is found at: <http://connect.ucea.edu/?tips>.

“The Commission I chair will be posting interesting content on UCEA CONNECT this year that members won’t want to miss.”

Sandi Parkes,  
UCEA Board  
Member and Chair  
of the Learning,  
Instruction and  
Technology  
Commission

–Mark Richer