

**UNF DHI Digital Projects Showcase**  
**November 8, 2017**  
**Project Proposal – Poster Presentation**

**1. Title of Poster Presentation:**

Exploring the Role of Emerging Communication Technology and Social Media in 21st Century Veteran Education

**2. Presenters:**

Margaret C. Stewart, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Communication Studies, Department of Communication, University of North Florida

Carol M. Walker, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Digital Media Technologies, Graduate Coordinator: Instructional Technologies, Department of Digital Media Technologies, East Stroudsburg University, PA.

**3. Project Abstract:**

This poster presents the findings of critical literature assessment across the areas of military culture of learning, social media, and collaborative pedagogy studies in order to discuss the role and potential benefits of utilizing emerging communication technology, such as social media and mobile devices, to enhance the educational experience for military veterans in the college classroom. By examining these variables within the context of Social Learning Theory, this project seeks to review and analyze strategies that may be of potential value of using communication technologies in order to better support the transition of military veterans from the battlefield to the classroom. Gaining an understanding of how social media, mobile technology, and related communication tools can be used within a college environment and then combining that knowledge with the unique needs of military veteran students, the goal of this project is to present a series of recommendations on how emerging communication technologies contribute towards collaboration, citizenship, reciprocity, establishing networks, participation, mentorship, engagement, and norms among veteran students and their instructors and peers in the classroom. Lastly, recommended strategies to integrate social media and new communication technologies for collaborative learning within a veteran-friendly classroom are discussed.

**4. Presenter Bios:**

Margaret C. Stewart (Ph.D., Indiana University of Pennsylvania, 2013) is an Assistant Professor of Communication Studies at University of North Florida in Jacksonville where she teaches Public Speaking for Professionals, Principles of Communication Studies, and Strategic Social Media in the Department of Communication. Dr. Stewart is a certified social media strategist and trainer for the National Institute of Social Media (NISM) and a consultant for Socially Inspired, LLC. Her research expertise is in the area of social media and emerging communication technologies. She primarily explores their interpersonal and organizational effects among military-affiliated and sports-athlete populations, as well as in crisis communication, fan engagement, and social listening. To date, she has published in *Communication Reports*, *The Journal of Technologies in Society*, *Computers in Human Behavior*, *Journal of Communications Media*, *International Journal of Listening*, and *Journal of Digital and Social Media Marketing*.

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Carol M. Walker (Ph.D. Indiana University of Pennsylvania, 2012) is an Assistant Professor of Digital Media and Instructional Technologies at East Stroudsburg University. Her current teaching load includes graduate courses: Internet for Educators, Research I: Action Research Design, Research II: Action Research Implementation, and Online Tools and Strategies for Learner-Centered Instruction. Undergraduate coursework includes Law & Ethics in Media and Seminar in Digital Technologies. Dr. Walker is also Graduate Coordinator for Instructional Technology. Her research expertise focuses on the use of social media in cyberbullying and utilizing online content curation tools for collaborative learning. To date she has peer-reviewed articles published in *TechTrends*, *Journal of Higher Education Theory and Practice*, *Encyclopedia of Educational Technology*, and *the International Journal of Education and Social Sciences*. A book chapter, Developing and understanding of cyberbullying: The emotional impact and struggle to define, is in the *Handbook of Research on Teacher Education for Ethical Professional Practice in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*.