

# Supna Chaudhari Jain, J.D.

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## Summary

I'm an educator passionate about teaching, mentoring, and building connections with students and the community. With nearly 20 years of experience, including over a decade at North Central College, I serve as a Principal Lecturer in Communication and Media Studies and Faculty Director for the Center for the Advancement of Faculty Excellence (CAFÉ). I've been recognized with awards for both teaching and mentoring, reflecting a deep commitment to student development. I also direct the campus Speaking Center and coordinate First-Year Speaking, where I support students in building communication confidence and finding their voice early in their college experience. As a former Provost Faculty Fellow, I explored ways to help students bridge classroom learning with real-world career skills. Beyond campus, I serve as Vice President of the Board of Education for Indian Prairie School District 204, where I work to strengthen public education and cultivate community partnerships. This work reflects my broader passion for building inclusive, collaborative spaces that support lifelong learning and meaningful civic engagement.

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## Education

### Master of Science: Communication Studies, School of Communication

- Illinois State University, Normal, Illinois, 2011
- Thesis: *Achieving Work-Family Balance When Perpetually On-Call: Social Support as a Buffer against Work-Family Conflict*
- Recognitions: 4.0 G.P.A., Graduate Teaching Assistantship Recipient

### Juris Doctor: College of Law

- DePaul University, Chicago, Illinois, 2003
- Specialty Areas: Litigation Consultation, Mediation, Domestic Violence
- Recognitions: Cali Award for Legal Writing, Minority Scholarship and Grant, Asian American Bar Association State Attorney's Office Internship Recipient

### Bachelor of Arts: Communication Studies & Political Science

- University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Illinois, 2000
- Specialty Areas: Interpersonal & Intercultural Communication, Law, South Asian Philosophy
- Recognitions: Dean's List, Distinction in Speech Communication, Recipient of Illinois Power Scholarship, Martin Luther King Jr Award Recipient by Normal Township

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## Academic Appointments and Teaching Experience

### Principal Lecturer in Communication & Media Studies, North Central College, Naperville, IL (2024-present)

- Hired as Assistant Adjunct Professor (2013), Half-Time Assistant Adjunct Professor (2014), and Full-Time Senior Lecturer (2019-2024).
- Taught multiple sections per semester of various communication courses, including *Introduction to public speaking (COMM 110, CARD 102)*, *Group Interaction (COMM 214)*, *Intercultural Communication (COMM 317)*, and *Interpersonal Communication (COMM 200)*. Excellence in Teaching Award, 2024.
- Through my teaching, work at the Speaking Center, and partnership with CAFÉ, I mentored students and faculty, which led me to receive the Distinguished Mentoring Award for Junior Faculty in 2023.

### Adjunct Lecturer in Speech Communication, College of DuPage, Glen Ellyn, IL (2011-2014)

- Taught *Fundamentals of Speech Communication (SP 1100)* and *Group Process (SP 1120)*, emphasizing public speaking, group dynamics, and research-based presentations. Used Blackboard to enhance learning and applied real-world problem-solving.
- Instructed diverse student populations, including veterans and adult learners, in day and evening courses. Led bi-weekly and jumbo sections over 12-week terms, adapting instruction to varied academic needs.

## **Graduate Student Lecturer in the School of Communication, Illinois State University, Normal, IL (2009-2011)**

- Taught *Communication as Critical Inquiry (COM 110)*, covering public speaking, interpersonal, group, and intercultural communication. Designed coursework for diverse learners, provided speech critiques in the *Speech Communication Lab*, and assisted with assignment development, rubrics, and lectures for *Organizational Communication (COM 329)*.

## **Administrative Experience**

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### **Faculty Director, Center for the Advancement of Faculty Excellence, North Central College, (2025-present)**

- Plan and lead faculty development programs that support teaching, research, and service for all faculty, including part-time and full-time.
- Coordinate mentoring and orientation efforts like New Faculty Academy to help new faculty feel supported and prepared.
- Use feedback to improve programs and resources, making sure they meet faculty needs and reflect college goals.
- Maintain regular communication with faculty to share updates, resources, and provide ongoing support.

### **Provost Faculty Fellow, North Central College, (2023-2025)**

- Partnered with the Director of General Education to assess 2025 career prep course syllabi (36 sections, 17 disciplines) for NACE Communication and Professionalism competencies, with plans to develop and deliver supporting workshops at the end of the semester.
- Led a pilot program (Spring 2024) integrating career readiness into non-career courses, collaborating with CAS faculty and career services to align academic learning with workforce skills and developing strategies to emphasize transferable skills and employer expectations.
- Collaborated with the Executive Director of the Center for Career and Professional Development to benchmark U.S. institutions' faculty support resources and create a framework for integrating career readiness into both career and non-career courses.

### **Faculty Coordinator, First-Year Seminar - Public Speaking, North Central College, (2022-present)**

- Collaborated with 10+ campus offices and external organizations to develop programming for 500+ first-year students.
- Developed and facilitated workshops for 50+ faculty and staff, providing support for the transition of first-year students to college.
- Mentored new faculty teaching Public Speaking, offering guidance and resources.
- Assessed first-year seminar artifacts and drafted reports for the General Education Committee.
- Monitored and advocated for student-centered improvements in programming, including supporting the decoupling of the transitional components of CARD 102 from public speaking content to allow students more time to develop their public speaking skills.

### **Director, Speaking Center, North Central College, (2019-present)**

- Created and developed programming to enhance undergraduate and graduate students' skills in public speaking, group communication, and professional communication, serving up to 650 students per semester.
- Recruited and trained 20+ peer tutors, mentoring 10 tutors to deliver engaging, high-impact workshops.
- Collaborated with faculty across disciplines to integrate communication-focused assignments into curricula.
- Facilitated in-class and out-of-class workshops across disciplines, emphasizing communication skills relevant to each field (5 workshops per semester).
- Developed marketing materials to promote Center services to students, faculty, and staff.

### **Vice President/ Board of Education Member, Indian Prairie School District 204, Aurora-Naperville (2025/2021-Present)**

- Monitored Superintendent performance and ensured strategic resource utilization during key initiatives, including the pandemic, redistricting, teacher negotiations, facility assessments, and referendum.
- Engaged with the community by attending and speaking at 50+ events and communicated with local and state government representatives to advocate for policies impacting schools.
- Presented at State and National Board conferences, submitting papers to support boards in enhancing public education quality, with a focus on mental health initiatives and local community engagement.
- Proposed and advocated for inclusive belief statements to the Illinois Association of School Boards to promote diversity and equity.

- Served as Board Secretary from 2023-25, supporting governance responsibilities by reviewing policies, coordinating communications, and helping ensure transparency and accountability in board operations.

#### **Production Director, NextPoint, Inc., Litigation Consulting Firm, Chicago, (2004- 2009)**

- Trained attorneys on best practices for using persuasive demonstratives in the courtroom and developed legal themes for effective visual aids.
- Reviewed legal pleadings, created demonstratives for use during opening/closing statements and witness examinations, and trained clients on new technology.
- Developed and presented marketing presentations showcasing services nationwide.
- Oversaw a team of 12+ staff, including producers, technical managers, graphic designers, and administrative assistants.

#### **Founder/Artistic Director, Aavegh, NFP., Dance Troup (2005- present)**

- Offered an artistic outlet to young professionals in the Chicagoland area by performing Indian dance styles to highlight social issues.
- Donated over \$25k to local, national, and international charities.
- Led and directed a team of 25+ members, including dancers, technical managers, poets, painters, singers, and administrative assistants, to deliver high-quality dance programs.

#### **Relevant Research**

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- Berkland, M. K., Buxbaum, A. G., & Jain, S. C. (2024). Fostering intercultural understanding for the global business professional. In *Intercultural Communication for the Global Business Professional* (pp. 3–18). Routledge.
- Berkland, M. K., Ji, Y., & Jain, S. C. (2022). Labels and the adjudication of rape: words matter. *Sexuality & Culture*, 26(5), 1579-1598.
- Jain, S. C. (2022). Don't forget to breathe! In *Kendall Hunt Publication*.
- Jain, S. C. (2022). What's Your Point? In *Kendall Hunt Publication*.
- Berkland, M. K., & Jain, S. C. (2018). Hollow Bahu: Indian daughter-in-law. In J. Manning & J. Dunn (Eds.), *Transgressing Feminist Theory and Discourse: Advancing Conversations Across Disciplines*, pp. 151-164. New York, NY: Routledge.
- Chaudhari, S. (2001). The Tip of the Iceberg. *DePaul Women's Law Journal, Woman and The Law*, 3.

#### **Relevant Presentations**

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- Talley, A., Thacker, A., Forkner, D., Brown, D., & Spychalski, A., Jain, S. C. (2024). United to Provide Comprehensive Mental Health Services for Students. In *IASA: Leveraging Leadership, Racing Toward Excellence*. Illinois Association of School Administrators.
- Jain, S. C., Talley, A., Thacker, A., & Forkner, D. (2024). Advancing Equity through School-Based Mental Health Clinics. In *League of Innovative Schools*. League of Innovative Schools.
- Jain, S. C., Gunja, D., Kadolph, J., Kim, M., Leung, T. P., & Wong, W. (2023). Embrace Naperville: The Power of Connection- AAPI Voices & Community. In *Embrace Naperville*. City of Naperville, Naperville Public Library, Chinese American Women in Action.
- Forkner, D., Fowler, T., Thacker, A., & Talley, A., Jain, S. C. (2023). Advancing Equity through School-Based Mental Health Clinics. In *Illinois Association of School Boards: Triple I Joint Annual Conference*. Illinois Association of School Boards.
- Berkland, M. K., & Jain, S. C. (2023.). *#MeToo: Rape Myths and Social Change. A Vision of One Humanity and One Planet as the Theoretical Framework for Worldwide Social Justice*. University of Sassari in Italy: University of Sassari & Benedictine University of Lisle.
- Jain, S. C., Grover, N., Fosdick, A., Donahue, L., & Demming, S. (2022, November). "Purposeful Outreach: Actively Engaging a Diverse Community." *Illinois Association of School Board*. Chicago: Illinois Association of School Board.
- Berkland, M. K., & Jain, S. (2020, April). *Meaning and Power in the Bahū Title: The Maintenance of Patriarchy*. *Central States Communication Association 2020 Annual Conference Borders and Breakthroughs*. Rosemont, IL: Central States Communication Association.
- Jain, S., Berkland, M. K., & Chod, S. (2019). *Who Wore it Best? Victims of Accusations Vs. Victims of Assault: Perceptions of Justice for Accused and Accusers in cases of Sexual Assault*. *Organization for the Study of Communication, Language and Gender 2019 Annual Conference Masculinity*. Organization for the Study of

Communication, Language and Gender.

- Jain, S.C., & Cupach, W. (2012, November). *Achieving Work-Family Balance When Perpetually On-call: Social Support As A Buffer Against Work-Family Conflict*. *Organizational Communication Division, National Communication Association*. Orlando, FL: National Communication Association.
- Jain, S.C., Doman, C., & Notarstefano, R. (2011, April). *Nonverbal Behavior of College Students: An Analysis of Student Self Perception and Instructor Perception of Student Nonverbal Involvement and Academic Performance*. *Nonverbal Communication Division, Central States Communication Association*. Milwaukee, WI: Central States Communication Association.
- Jain, S.C., & Haake, A. (2011, April). *A Teacher's Guide to Social Aggression*. *Blooming Grove Academy*. Bloomington, IL: Blooming Grove Academy.

#### Relevant Awards and Recognitions

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- Excellence in Teaching Award (Spring 2024)
- Provost's Faculty Fellow (Fall 2023- present)
- Distinguished Mentoring Award – Junior Faculty (Fall 2022)

#### Other Campus Service

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- Panel Participation
  - Presidential Debate Panel (Fall 2024)
  - CAFE: New Faculty Academy Panel on Mentorship (Spring 2024)
- Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education (NetVUE) – Grant Faculty Participant (Fall 2023-present)
- Transfer Faculty Mentor (2023 – 2025)
- First-Year Seminar Advisory Council Member (Fall 2023)
- Freshman Orientation Presenter (Summer 2023, 2024)
- Faculty Career Champions Network Member (Winter 2023 – present)
- CARD 103/104 Instructional Design Team (Winter/Spring 2022)
- Search Committee Member, Assistant Provost of Faculty Development and Innovation; Director, CAFE (Fall 2021-Spring 2022)
- Search Committee Member, Tenured Track Assistant/Associate English Professor and Coordinator for First Year Writing (2024-25)
- Title IX Committee (2021-2025)
- CAFE' Consultant and Speaker for new half-time faculty orientation (2017-2020)
- Peer Health Educator Guest Speaking (2016-2017)