

Ryan K. Boettger



Professor of Technical Communication
University of North Texas

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APPOINTMENTS

University of North Texas — Department of Technical Communication (2009–present)
Professor (2023–present) · Associate Professor (2015–2023) · Assistant Professor (2009–2015)

ADMINISTRATIVE

Chair, Department of Technical Communication — UNT (2022–2026)

Led the department's strategic direction and growth (headcount +22.7%, 7,171 SCH). Directed a **\$350,000 Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board** contract to develop the *Adapting to Innovation Playbook*. Oversaw approval of the B.A. in Content Strategy and undergraduate/graduate certificates in Artificial Intelligence in Professional Communication, Writing in the Sciences, Entrepreneurial Communication, and UX Writing. Received the College Outstanding Department Chair Award (2025).

Assistant Chair, Department of Technical Communication — UNT (2018–2020)

Coordinated scheduling and staffing across programs; managed retention, recruitment, accreditation, and graduate admissions; mentored teaching fellows, adjuncts, and new faculty.

Director of Lower-Division Service Courses — UNT (2015–2017)

Supervised 25 teaching fellows, adjuncts, and lecturers serving ~2,500 undergraduates annually; chaired a 9-person curriculum committee.

Director of Graduate Studies — UNT (2012–2015)

Advised ~30 M.A. and certificate students; facilitated a 26.6% enrollment increase; developed the certificate in Teaching Technical Writing.

EDITORIAL

Editor, Wiley-IEEE Press Series in Professional Engineering Communication (2017–2020)

Deputy Editor-in-Chief, *IEEE Transactions on Professional Communication* (2015)

Editorial Board Member, *Technical Communication Quarterly* (2018–present)

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Technical Communication & Rhetoric, Texas Tech University (2008)

M.A., Technical Communication, Texas Tech University (2004)

B.A., Communication, University of Texas at San Antonio (2002)

Graduate Academic Certificate, Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages, Pennsylvania State University (2015)

Gallup-Certified Strengths Coach (2023–present)

Fictionary Certified StoryCoach

HONORS & AWARDS

College Outstanding Department Chair Award (2025)

Frank R. Smith Award for Outstanding Journal Article (2020)

REFEREED JOURNAL ARTICLES

Campbell, K. S., Boettger, R. K., & Swisher, V. (2024). Challenges in developing technical communication leaders in client-based, content strategy projects: A teaching case. *Technical Communication*, 71(3), 26–43.

Friess, E., & Boettger, R. K. (2021). Identifying commonalities and divergences between technical communication scholarly and trade publications (1996–2017). *Journal of Business and Technical Communication*, 35(4), 407–432.

Boettger, R. K., & Friess, E. (2020). Content and authorship patterns in technical communication journals (1996–2017): A quantitative content analysis. *Technical Communication*, 67(3), 239–252. **(Frank R. Smith Award for Outstanding Journal Article.)**

- Boettger, R. K., & Wulff, S. (2019). Gender effects in student technical writing: A corpus-based study. *IEEE Transactions on Professional Communication*, 62(3), 239–252.
- Boettger, R. K., & Emory Moore, L. (2018). Analyzing error perception and recognition among professional communication practitioners and academics. *Business and Professional Communication Quarterly*, 81(4), 462–484.
- Boettger, R. K., & Friess, E. (2016). Academics are from Mars, practitioners are from Venus: Analyzing content alignment within technical communication forums. *Technical Communication*, 63(4), 314–327.
- Boettger, R. K. (2016). Using corpus-based instruction to explore writing variation across the disciplines: A case history in a graduate-level technical editing course. *Across the Disciplines*, 13(1).
- Boettger, R. K. (2014). Explicitly teaching five technical genres to English first-language adults in a multi-major technical writing course. *Journal of Writing Research*, 6(1), 29–59.
- Boettger, R. K. (2014). The technical communication editing test: Three studies on this assessment type. *Technical Communication*, 61(4), 215–231.
- Boettger, R. K., & Wulff, S. (2014). The naked truth about the naked *this*: Investigating grammatical prescriptivism in technical communication. *Technical Communication Quarterly*, 23(2), 115–140.
- Boettger, R. K., & Lam, C. (2013). An overview of experimental and quasi-experimental research in technical communication (1992–2011). *IEEE Transactions on Professional Communication*, 56(4), 272–293.
- Boettger, R. K. (2012). Types of errors used in medical editing tests. *American Medical Writers Association Journal*, 27(3), 99–104.
- Boettger, R. K. (2010). Rubric use in technical communication: Exploring the process of creating valid and reliable assessment tools. *IEEE Transactions on Professional Communication*, 53(1), 4–17.
- Boettger, R. K., & Palmer, L. A. (2010). Quantitative content analysis: Its use in technical and professional communication. *IEEE Transactions on Professional Communication*, 53(4), 346–357.

FUNDED RESEARCH AWARDS

- Boettger, R. K. (PI), Pellegrini, M., He, J., & Ji, H. (2025). *Human-guided AI for curriculum innovation: Transforming faculty expertise into ethical AI-enhanced learning resources*. University of North Texas Learning Institute Pilot Funding. **\$11,000.**
- Boettger, R. K. (PI), Campbell, K., Friess, E., Pellegrini, M., Rea, E., & Williams, E. (2025). *Adapting to Innovation Playbook*. Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. **\$350,000.**
- Boettger, R. K. (PI), Wulff, S., Hoenighaus, D., & Ludi, S. (2017–2020). *Collaborative research: Evaluating a data-driven approach to teaching technical writing to STEM majors*. National Science Foundation (#1708360/#1708362). **\$295,246.**
- Boettger, R. K. (2013). *A corpus-driven analysis of STEM students' technical vocabularies*. UNT Research Enabling Grant. **\$3,700.**
- Boettger, R. K. (2012). *Developing and evaluating a data-driven learning model for improving undergraduates' technical writing skills*. UNT Junior Faculty Research Fellowship. **\$5,000.**
- Wulff, S., & Boettger, R. K. (2012). *When textbooks meet language in use: A contrastive study of student technical writing*. UNT Research Initiative Grant. **\$7,340.**
- Boettger, R. K., & Wulff, S. (2011). *A linguistic approach to assessing the vocabulary richness of student technical writing*. UNT Research Initiative Grant. **\$3,800.**
- Wulff, S., & Boettger, R. K. (2011). *TechCorp pilot: Creating a databank of student technical writing*. UNT Research Initiative Grant. **\$6,500.**

REFEREED CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

- Boettger, R. K., & Wulff, S. (2019). Teaching STEM undergraduates discipline-specific writing skills: A data-driven learning approach. *ASEE Annual Conference and Exposition*. Tampa, FL.
- Boettger, R. K., Lam, C., & Palmer, L. (2017). Improving the data information literacies of technical communication undergraduates. *Proceedings of ProComm*. Madison, WI.
- Lam, C., & Boettger, R. K. (2017). An overview of research methods in technical communication journals (2012–2016). *Proceedings of ProComm*. Madison, WI.
- Boettger, R. K., & Wulff, S. (2016). Using authentic language data to teach discipline-specific writing patterns to STEM students. *Proceedings of ProComm*. Austin, TX.
- Boettger, R. K., Friess, E., & Carliner, S. (2015). Update on who says what to whom? *Proceedings of ProComm*. Limerick, Ireland.
- Boettger, R. K., & Friess, E. (2014). What are the most common title words in technical communication publications? *Proceedings of IEEE ProComm*. Pittsburgh, PA.
- Boettger, R. K., Friess, E., & Carliner, S. (2014). Who says what to whom? *Proceedings of IEEE ProComm*. Pittsburgh, PA.

Boettger, R. K. (2011). Examining error in the technical communication editing test. *Proceedings of the 58th Annual STC Summit*. Sacramento, CA.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Boettger, R. K. (2024). From technical communicator to AI whisperer: The rise of prompt engineering. *Intercom*, 71(2), 22–25.

Boettger, R. K. (2019). "How does that make you feel?": The psychological dimensions of editorial comments. In S. Flanagan & M. J. Albers (Eds.), *Editing in the Modern Classroom* (pp. 47–65). ATTW Series in Technical and Professional Communication: Routledge.

Boettger, R. K., & Ishizaki, S. (2018). Guest editorial — Introduction to the special issue: Data-driven approaches to research and teaching in professional and technical communication. *IEEE Transactions on Professional Communication*, 61(4), 1–4.

INVITED WORKSHOPS, ROUNDTABLES & PRESENTATIONS (SELECTED)

Opening Plenary Panel, THECB Digital Learning Summit (February 2026).

"AI Powered Teaching & Learning," AI EmpowerED webinar series, THECB (September 2024).

"Innovative Assessment Strategies in the Age of AI," THECB AI Facilitated Learning Network (2024).

"From Complex to Concise: How Intelligent Prompting Helps Government Achieve Plain Language Compliance," AI in Action Conference, UNT (April 2024).

"Bridging the Gap: How AI is Reshaping Technical Communication," *Inside Tech Comm* podcast, S4E7 (2023).

Editor's Roundtable, CPTSC Conference, Minneapolis, MN (2018).

"Quantitative content analysis," ATTW Research Methods Workshops, Portland, OR (2017).

SERVICE

To the Discipline. Editorial Board Member, *Technical Communication Quarterly* (2018–present); manuscript reviewer for *JBTC*, *IEEE TPC*, *Technical Communication*, *TCQ*, *BPCQ*, *English for Specific Purposes*, and *International Journal of Learner Corpus Research* (2010–present); Guest Editor, *IEEE TPC* special issue on data-driven approaches (2018); Advisory Board Member, IEEE Professional Communication Society (2017–2020); external tenure-and-promotion reviewer (5 cases).

To the University. Member, UNT AI Steering Committee (2024–2025); Member, Graduate Curriculum Committee, College of Arts and Sciences (2015–2017).

To the Department. Chair/Member, Promotion & Tenure and Reappointment committees (2015–2022); Chair, Graduate Committee (2012–2015); Member, Executive Committee (2011–2022); multiple faculty search committees.

COURSES TAUGHT

Graduate — Editing Technical Documents · Content Analysis · Grants & Proposals · Principles of Technical Communication · Studies in the Teaching of Technical Communication · Writing the Dissertation and for Publication

Undergraduate — AI & Automation · Advanced Technical Writing · Content Analysis · Professional, Science & Technical Writing · Technical Editing · Technical Manuals · Writing in the Sciences · Writing Grants & Proposals

Students in my graduate Grants & Proposals course have collectively secured nearly \$80,000 in external funding and scholarships.