USU faculty members and students presented their research at the 20th Association of Teachers of Technical Writing (ATTW) conference held March 15, 2017, in Portland, Oregon.

Rebecca Walton, Assistant Professor of English, was announced as a winner of the award given to the best article. This is the second year in a row that Walton has won the Nell Ann Pickett Award, a first for the organization. Technical Communication Quarterly (TCQ) is a refereed journal published four times per year. This year’s article was co-authored by Walton, Natasha Jones, and Kristen Moore: “Disrupting the past to disrupt the future: An antenarrative of technical communication.” The previous winning article was Walton's co-authored essay with Zraly and Mugengana, “Values and validity: Navigating messiness in a community-based research project in Rwanda.” The award is named for a founding member of the association.

TCQ publishes research focused on technical communication in academic, scientific, technical, business, governmental, and related organizational or social contexts. Articles published in TCQ combine theoretical and practical perspectives. All articles have a sound basis in theory, use accessible examples and illustrations, and include implications for teaching, research, or practice in technical communication.

Also attending and presenting at ATTW were several faculty members and students. Professor Keith Grant-Davie with Breeanne Matheson, a current student at USU, and Eric James Stephens, a USU alum who is pursuing a PhD at Clemson, delivered a workshop, “Finding Your Vocation and Professional Identity as an Emerging Scholar in Technical Communication.” This workshop was based on an article by the trio entitled, “Helping Doctoral Students Establish Long-Term Identities as Technical Communication Scholars,” due to appear in the April 2017 issue of the Journal of Technical Writing and Communication—a special issue on preparing graduate students for research.

Matheson also chaired and presented in a session on “Examining Ethical Dilemmas in Technical Communication Research through Positionality, Privilege, and Diversity,” a panel that included Dr. Emily January Petersen, who received her PhD from the department. Assistant Professor Jared Colton presented in yet another session on “Defining and Contextualizing Virtue Ethics for TPC.”

ATTW precedes the Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC).