

FEMA Higher Education Newsletter

Quarterly: February 2024



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FEMA's National Training and Education Division (NTED) manages the Higher Education Program to serve the needs of the Emergency Management community, including faculty, students, staff at institutions of higher education and professional organizations, and practitioners who are dedicated to advancing the field of Emergency Management.

The mission of the Higher Education Program is to engage Emergency Management academia, professional organizations, and practitioners to work together to foster a culture of continuous learning and innovation through education and research to meet the challenges that confront the Nation.

Since 1994, the Higher Education Program has helped foster growth in the academic community to include college- and university-based programs in Emergency Management, Homeland Security, and related fields.

FEMA Higher Education Program Updates

- The **26th Annual Federal Emergency Management Agency Higher Education Symposium** will be held on June 3–5, 2024. The Symposium is hosted by FEMA's Higher Education Program and held at the National Emergency Training Center campus in Emmitsburg, Maryland. [Symposium](#) information and registration instructions can be found at <https://training.fema.gov/hiedu/educonference24.aspx>. Please note that the call for presentation proposals has closed.
- The FEMA Higher Education Program annually allocates funding towards multidisciplinary applied research by academics and practitioners that advances the practice of Emergency Management. The annual research award process is currently under revision to incorporate a peer-review process. FY 2024 research award announcements will be made in Spring 2024.
- The Higher Education website is currently undergoing changes and is scheduled for a full redesign in 2024. If there are materials missing from the site that are needed, please email a detailed request to: fema-hied@fema.dhs.gov.

The College List

The **Higher Education College List** is a self-reported listing of Emergency Management and related programs at universities both nationally and internationally. The resource includes information about Bachelor's, Master's, and Certificate programs. [The College List](#) is one of the only comprehensive listings for Emergency Management and related programs and is hosted on FEMA's Higher Education website at <https://training.fema.gov/hiedu/collegelist/>.



FEMA Region II Higher Education Roundtable

The next Region II Higher Education Roundtable will be held on March 5, 2024, at Kean University, hosted by Jerome Hatfield, Acting Senior Vice President, Kean University Division of Integrated Health, Safety and Response Services. The topic will be **Campus Safety**. The last Higher Education “Extreme Weather” Roundtable was held at SUNY Albany on November 16, 2023. For virtual attendance information or previous roundtable recordings, please contact: Mark.strohoefer@fema.dhs.gov.

Region II is considering new members for their Higher Education Collaborative. The Higher Education Collaborative is a regional community of educators, researchers, emergency managers, and private sector entities engaged in an ongoing dialogue to share information and foster collaboration among colleges, universities, tribal nations, and centers of excellence in New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Questions regarding the collaborative can be addressed to: Mark.strohoefer@fema.dhs.gov.

FEMA Region VI Higher Education Collaborative Annual Summit

The 5th Annual Region VI Higher Education Collaborative (HEC) Summit will be held on February 21–22, 2024. The Summit will be hosted by the Region VI Higher Education Collaborative and held at Texas Southern University, Houston, Texas.

The HEC Summit brings together practitioners and academics to address issues specific to their region, as well as national issues. The HEC Summit aims to (a) promote professional relations among academics and practitioners in their region; (b) promote education, training, and research associated with institutions of higher education; and (c) incorporate practical experience and experiential learning into academic curricula. The HEC Summit provides opportunities for academics, practitioners, and students to share ideas through paper presentations, panel discussions, and open dialogue.

The HEC Summit will feature a wide range of presentations, panel discussions, and networking opportunities. Participants will include Emergency Management professionals, academics, students, government officials, and community leaders. Participants of the [HEC Summit](#) can register to attend in person or virtually at <https://www.tsu.edu/academics/colleges-and-schools/bjml-school-public-affairs/departments/political-science/degrees/region-vi-higher-education-registration>.

HBCU Collaborations

The University of Florida and members of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Special Interest Group (HBCU SIG) are pursuing grant funding for **Improving Frontline Communities’ Resilience through a Diverse Cohort of HBCU-Educated Floodplain Stewards**. The U.S. Government recognizes the beneficial role Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) have in developing a workforce that reflects diverse communities. Through development of curriculum for a Graduate Certificate in Floodplain Stewardship with HBCUs, the Association of State Floodplain



Managers (ASFPM) extends this benefit to better reach underserved/overburdened “frontline” communities. The co-chair of the ASFPM Higher Education Committee and the Academia Regent for the ASFPM Certification Board of Regents are currently pursuing grant funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and private foundations to develop curriculum with HBCUs and graduate an initial cohort of Professional Floodplain Stewards.

If faculty from another institution are interested in participating, particularly faculty at an HBCU in the coastal southeast (generally Virginia to Texas) with an Emergency Management, Urban/Regional Planning, Environmental Sciences, or other related discipline, please contact Dr. Jerry Murphy at: murphyge@ufl.edu.

FEMA Research Award Recipient Updates

The following FY 2023 FEMA Higher Education research award recipients’ project updates are provided below.

John Aliu, Ph.D. / University of Georgia

FEMA Higher Education research award project: *Developing an Inclusive Approach to Emergency Management Workforce Training and Development*

Participants Needed: Dr. John Aliu, a FY 2023 FEMA Higher Education research award recipient at the University of Georgia, is leading the effort to develop an inclusive Emergency Management workforce training approach. His team is working on IRB approval and, once granted, they will invite participants. Input will be crucial in understanding diverse experiences and shaping our educational environment. Please consider supporting this project by spreading the word and encouraging your colleagues to participate. Interested parties can contact: john.aliu@uga.edu for additional information.

Christina Barsky, Ph.D., MPA & Lauren McKeague, Ph.D., MPA / University of Montana

FEMA Higher Education research award project: *Where you Stand Depends on Where you Sit: Understanding Stakeholder Perceptions of Community*

NHC Quick Response Report: The [NHC Quick Response Report](https://hazards.colorado.edu/quick-response-report/making-us-whole-again) can be found at <https://hazards.colorado.edu/quick-response-report/making-us-whole-again>. This project was funded in part by the Natural Hazards Center (NHC).

Monica Sanders, J.D. / Georgetown Law

FEMA Higher Education research award project: *10 States Project*

The *10 States Project* is a pioneering initiative addressing climate and disaster risks confronting African Americans in the ten states where, except for New York and California, 60% of that demographic lives. The goal of the project is to create a comprehensive risk profile that considers multiple indicators comprehensively, rather than comparatively or at fixed points in time. The project will also include factors such as connectivity, socioeconomics, and political



instability in the profile. The final product will be a hub in which the community itself, along with Emergency Management, disaster, and climate resilience professionals can access the research. Additionally, it will give a glimpse of the lived reality of divested groups vis-à-vis the multifaceted challenges of climate-accelerated disasters. Stakeholders and interested parties may follow the [10 States Project](https://linktr.ee/theundivide) online at <https://linktr.ee/theundivide>. 10 State Project leadership will also be available to discuss this work at the upcoming FEMA Higher Education Symposium.

Hugo Sindelar, Ph.D. / Montana State University

FEMA Higher Education research award project: *One in Five Hundred*

A film chronicling the devastating 2022 floods that affected Yellowstone National Park and its surrounding gateway communities. The film will be screened at the 26th Annual Emergency Management Higher Education Symposium. The [One in Five Hundred trailer](https://vimeo.com/user31892533/oneinfivehundred?share=copy) can be found at <https://vimeo.com/user31892533/oneinfivehundred?share=copy>.

NHC Quick Response Report: The [NHC Quick Response Report](https://hazards.colorado.edu/quick-response-report/lessons-from-the-2022-yellowstone-floods) can be found at <https://hazards.colorado.edu/quick-response-report/lessons-from-the-2022-yellowstone-floods>. This project was funded in part by the Natural Hazards Center (NHC).

Did You Know? FEMA Case Study Library and CHDS

FEMA Case Study Library

Colleges, universities, and training institutions can browse case study reports and best practice articles from across FEMA's areas of expertise to use in curricula or training materials. Users can search by title or keywords, select additional content filters, or jump to a collection. The [FEMA Case Study Library](https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/practitioners/case-study-library) can be found at <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/practitioners/case-study-library>.

The Center for Homeland Defense and Security (CHDS)

CHDS programs are developed in partnership with and sponsored by the FEMA National Preparedness Directorate. CHDS houses resources available to the Higher Education community, including digital libraries, document repositories, courses, books, databases, thesis collections, video lectures, podcasts, interviews, and collaborations across a wide variety of homeland security topics.

This quarter spotlights the **CHDS Self-study Courses**. These are non-credit, self-study courses online, designed for homeland defense and security professionals and students who wish to enhance their understanding of homeland security, and want the flexibility of self-paced instruction. The Naval Postgraduate School does not provide graduate credit for the courses; however, participants are encouraged to check with their professional associations regarding continuing education units/credits. There is no cost to students and access is granted to U.S. citizens who are local, tribal, state, and Federal U.S. government officials; members of the U.S. military; corporate homeland security managers or contractors; homeland security researchers or educators; or students currently enrolled in Homeland Security degree programs. There are more than 35 self-study courses available, with topics including but not limited to public-private partnerships, supply chain resilience, public health, and climate. Details about the [CHDS Self-study Courses](https://www.chds.us/selfstudy) can be found at <https://www.chds.us/selfstudy>.



Natural Hazards Center Updates

Funding Opportunities:

Call for Weather Ready Research Proposals

The Natural Hazards Center—with support from the National Science Foundation and the NOAA Weather Program Office, and in partnership with the National Severe Storms Laboratory and the National Weather Service—is issuing a series of funding calls for social, behavioral, and economic sciences to advance the understanding of how to most effectively prepare for and communicate about extreme weather, water, and climate events.

- [Call 4: Wildfire Ready Quick Response Research and Data Publication](#) (Due June 3, 2024).
Visit <https://hazards.colorado.edu/research/weather-ready-research-wildfires>.
- [Call 5: Flood Ready Research and Data Publication](#) (Due March 11, 2024).
Visit <https://hazards.colorado.edu/research/weather-ready-research-floods>.
- [Call 6: Tornado Ready Research and Data Publication](#) (Due August 9, 2024).
Visit <https://hazards.colorado.edu/research/weather-ready-research-tornados>.

This new initiative is designed to promote knowledge while also building a diverse cadre of weather ready researchers. Funds will support awards in the amount of \$1,000 to \$7,500 each. All proposals must be led by a researcher in the social, behavioral, or economic sciences. Collaborators from other disciplines are welcome. Early career scholars, students, advanced researchers, and practitioners interested in conducting Weather Ready research are encouraged to apply. More information on [funding opportunities](#) can be found at <https://hazards.colorado.edu/research/weather-ready-research/index>.

Natural Hazards Center Workshop – July 14–17, 2024:

Since 1975, the Natural Hazards Center has hosted the Annual Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop in Colorado. Today the Workshop brings together Federal, state, and local Mitigation and Emergency Management officials and planning professionals; representatives of nonprofit, private sector, and humanitarian organizations; hazards and disaster researchers; and others dedicated to alleviating the impacts of disasters. Information on the [Workshop](#) can be found at <https://hazards.colorado.edu/workshop/2024>.

CONVERGE Webinars:

CONVERGE webinars feature updates regarding new projects and initiatives relevant to various research communities. Examples of past webinar recordings are Positionality in Hazards and Disaster Research and Practice Training Module: A Demonstration Webinar, Public Health Implications of Hazards and Disaster Research Training Module: A Demonstration Webinar, and Reciprocity Training Module: A Demonstration Webinar. More information on the [Webinars](#) can be found at <https://converge.colorado.edu/category/webinars/>.



CONVERGE Training Modules:

- The CONVERGE team has developed a series of free, online training modules that allow users to quickly background themselves on fundamental research findings, theory, and methods in the multi-disciplinary hazards and disaster field.
- CHECK SHEETS are short graphics meant to be used as researchers design their studies, prepare to enter the field, conduct field research, and exit the field. The series offers best practices for extreme events research and include check sheets for free to the research community.

More information on the [Training Modules](https://converge.colorado.edu/resources/) can be found at <https://converge.colorado.edu/resources/>.

Sign up via our free [e-mail subscription service](https://service.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSFEMA/subscriber/new?topic_id=USDHSFEMA_149)

(URL:https://service.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSFEMA/subscriber/new?topic_id=USDHSFEMA_149) to receive notifications and information updates.

FEMA's mission is helping people before, during, and after disasters.

Download the [FEMA App](https://www.fema.gov/mobile-app) (<https://www.fema.gov/mobile-app>) to receive weather alerts from the NWS for up to five different locations anywhere in the United States.

The Higher Education newsletter is published periodically. We'd like to include information useful to the community. What would you like to see more of? We want to hear from you. Send an email to: fema-hied@fema.dhs.gov.

The resources in this newsletter are compiled from a variety of sources to support research or classroom use. The links are provided as a convenience. They do not constitute any endorsement or approval by FEMA or the Higher Education Program. FEMA and the Higher Education Program do not endorse any non-government websites, companies, or applications.

