

FEMA Higher Education Newsletter

Quarterly: April 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.

Learn more at the [Higher Education Program website](#).

26th Annual Federal Emergency Management Agency Higher Education Symposium

Registration closes April 30th!

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. The theme this year is, "Pioneering Ideas and Practices in Emergency Management Higher Education: Building More Resilient Communities."

[Symposium information and registration instructions](#) can be found on FEMA's Higher Education website. There will be many presentations, workshops, panel discussions, and an agenda will be posted online soon.

Registration to attend the Symposium and lodging on campus is free! (A meal ticket must be purchased.)

The mission of the FEMA Higher Education Program's Symposium is to cultivate a collaborative space for emergency management academia, professional organizations, and practitioners that promotes a culture of continuous learning and innovation.

Our vision is to establish the Symposium as a dynamic platform where diverse ideas and practices in Emergency Management higher education are explored and exchanged. We are committed to celebrating the spirit of innovation, education, and community resilience. The Symposium serves as a nexus for Emergency Management professionals, academics, students, and government officials, facilitating a robust exchange of knowledge and ideas. Together, we aspire to empower communities to navigate and overcome the complexities of disasters and emergencies by educating the next generation of Emergency Managers.



Symposium Meet the Authors Event – Call for Publications:

Discover new resources for your courses!

Featuring:

- Meet-and-greet with published authors
- Presentation by the National Emergency Training Center Librarian
- New and updated textbooks

RSVP by May 15th! If you would like to attend this event or request to feature your work, please [register](#) online.

The FEMA Higher Education College List

The **College List** is a self-reported listing of Emergency Management and related programs at universities both nationally and internationally. The resource includes information about Associates, 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.

HBCU Collaborations

- The [2024 Annual National Historically Black Colleges and Universities \(HBCU\) Week Conference](#) is September 15–19, 2024, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Aligning with the Department's "Raise the Bar: Lead the World" call to action, the Initiative will continue to identify and target tangible opportunities that would connect Federal and private resources to the HBCU community. Additional details to include Conference Content, Federal Employee- Volunteer Information, Exhibitor Information, Career and Recruitment Information, etc., can be found online.
- The FEMA Higher Education Program routinely collaborates with the [HBCU Emergency Management Workforce Consortium](#) and would like to thank Dr. Goulda Downer, Co-founder, for extending consortium guidance and partnership!
- **FEMA Partners with Jackson State University on Panel Discussion about Disaster Recovery in Rural Communities.** Experts from FEMA and the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) joined a panel discussion at Jackson State University to discuss how agencies respond to major disasters. The discussion – "Navigating Disaster Recovery: Challenges in Rural America" – was especially relevant due to the tornado outbreaks that struck rural areas of Mississippi in March and June of 2023. The goal of the panel discussion was to help build this preparedness at every level. After the panel, Mississippi civic and university officials were



able to better understand how agencies handle disasters and the roles they play in preparedness and understanding disaster recovery in rural communities.

The Chronicle of Higher Education DEI Legislation Tracker

The Chronicle of Higher Education has created a [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion \(DEI\) Legislation Tracker](#) with bills in Alabama, Arizona, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Mississippi, Wisconsin, Wyoming, and the U.S. Congress that seek to dismantle colleges' diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts.

FEMA Higher Education Program Research Awards

The FEMA Higher Education Program is pleased to announce the availability of funding for competitive multidisciplinary applied research proposals and special projects, with grants of up to \$10,000 allocated for each selected project. These initiatives are intended to delve into intricate challenges within the field of Emergency Management, offering actionable insights and recommendations for advancement.

Projects should be structured to span approximately 9 months to 1 year, ensuring comprehensive examination and analysis. Crucially, all proposals must align closely with FEMA's Strategic Plan to ensure congruence with the Agency's overarching objectives.

To facilitate the application process, detailed selection criteria and a draft final report template will be provided within the official announcement at the end of May 2024. We encourage interested parties to seize this opportunity to contribute to the evolution of Emergency Management practices through innovative research endeavors.

FEMA Grant Programs Directorate

The [FEMA Grant Programs Directorate](#) has issued Information Bulletin (IB) No. 504, titled "Guidance on the Eligibility of Law Enforcement Agencies for Institutions of Higher Education to Receive Funding Under the State Homeland Security Program, Urban Area Security Initiative, and Nonprofit Security Grant Program." This IB informs law enforcement agencies at institutions of higher education that these agencies are eligible to receive both State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) and Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) funding for eligible activities as subrecipients. In addition, institutions of higher education that are described under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (IRC) and exempt from tax under Section 501(a) of such code may also apply for and receive funding for eligible activities as subrecipients under the Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP). IB #504 is available.



FEMA Higher Education SIG Announcements

[Special Interest Groups \(SIGs\)](#) support the exchange of knowledge in specific areas and applications of Emergency Management higher education. SIG members can potentially become involved in co-authoring research, mentoring students, and advising practitioners. FEMA does not endorse or manage these groups but encourages their formation around common areas of interest.

Dr. Shirley Feldman, co-lead for the FEMA Ethics SIG, recently authored a publication titled “[Code of Ethics and Professional Standards of Conduct for Emergency Management Professionals.](#)” This work is openly accessible and can be obtained by registering with the *Journal of Emergency Management*.

Dr. Ray Chang, co-lead for the FEMA International and Theory SIGs, is slated to present at the “Innovating for an Imagined Disaster Future” Workshop, hosted by the Disaster Research Center at the University of Delaware. The Workshop will take place from May 2nd to May 4th as part of the 60th Workshop series. Further details can be found at [Disaster Research Center, University of Delaware](#).

FEMA External and Legislative Affairs Graduate Internships – Community Resilience

FEMA presents an excellent opportunity for a **PAID, remote internship from AT&T** to support work on the Climate Risk and Resilience (ClimRR) portal. **The application deadline is April 25th!**

[AT&T](#) is now seeking applications for our [External & Legislative Affairs Graduate Internship focused on Community Resilience](#). If you or your students are passionate about providing innovative solutions for communities to improve climate preparedness, then this is the internship for you! You will work alongside AT&T’s Corporate Responsibility Team to help better assess hazards through our Climate Risk and Resilience portal and build climate resilience. Job description and application can be found online.

The National Advisory Council and FEMA Fellows Program

Established by the enactment of the Post-Katrina Emergency Response Act (PKEMRA) of 2006, the National Advisory Council (NAC) advises the FEMA Administrator on all aspects of Emergency Management, including preparedness, protection, response, recovery, and mitigation for natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other manmade disasters.

Beginning in 2020, FEMA’s Office of the NAC (ONAC) partnered with the University of Maryland Federal Fellows Program to provide undergraduate students an opportunity, consistent with 5 USC Section 3111, to volunteer at FEMA. ONAC provides an enriching internship experience that allows student volunteers to support NAC subcommittees as research and scheduling assistants, attend in-person meetings and briefings, and work on



projects related to communications, membership selection, recommendations drafting, and more. In doing so, Fellows network with stakeholders across the Emergency Management enterprise.

Since 2020, the FEMA Fellows Program has welcomed more than 40 rigorously selected, interviewed, and vetted candidates into FEMA. In 2023, ONAC integrated five additional partner offices into the program: the U.S. Fire Administration, the Office of Policy and Program Analysis, Office of National Capital Region Coordination, Continual Improvement Programs in Resilience Strategy, and the Vanguard Program.

ONAC Director Rob Long founded the FEMA Fellows Program to educate young people about the field of Emergency Management. He states, “it is my pleasure to introduce [Fellows] to the important work of the NAC and to entice them to join FEMA. I now experience great satisfaction from my two favorite professional roles: helping improve disaster outcomes, and personally recruiting the next generation of Emergency Managers.”

FEMA Fellows alum and current Program Analyst in FEMA’s Office of Response and Recovery, Joseph Dolinger, notes, “the FEMA ONAC Fellowship constitutes the highlight of my time at UMD, providing the skills, opportunities, and professional insights that paved the way to land my post-grad dream job.”

FEMA Fellows will support the 26th Annual Emergency Management Higher Education Symposium this June as student volunteers. This is the second year in a row that EMI has welcomed FEMA Fellows to volunteer.



ONAC Director and FEMA Fellows having a discussion on stage at the 25th EMI Higher Education Symposium, June 2023.

External Higher Education Events and Resources

Assessment of Study Quality

The [Assessment of Study Quality \(ASQ\) Tool](#) provides a common framework on the quality of research and evaluation studies, codifying best practices in designing, implementing, and reporting on studies. Social science researchers and evaluators may use the tool as guidance to identify what steps they need to take to ensure their study is of high quality and to identify what type of documentation to include in a report and its annexes to demonstrate that quality. Commissioners of social science research and evaluations may use the tool to guide their expectations of research and evaluation. Those who are interested in using the evidence generated through social science research and



evaluation studies may use the tool to support their assessment of the quality of studies they reference. More details and contact information can be found online.

School Climate Resources for the K–12 Community

Create a School Environment Where Students Feel Safe, Supported, and Welcome

SchoolSafety.gov released a new [infographic](#) that outlines the benefits of creating a positive school climate and strategies and resources for enhancing school safety, fostering school connectedness and relationships, and enabling a supportive environment. Learn more below and download and share this new resource with others in your school community.

What is school climate?

It is a broad, multifaceted concept that involves many aspects of a student's educational experience. It describes the conditions within a school that can impact student learning such as environment, safety, and engagement among members of the school community.

Why does school climate matter?

Research shows that when schools and districts focus on promoting a positive school climate, students are more likely to develop trusting relationships, demonstrate positive behaviors, and achieve better outcomes. A positive school climate can also lead to a decrease in the likelihood of crime, aggression, and violent behavior.

How can schools foster a positive school climate?

Three strategies that school leaders, educators, and staff may consider to proactively foster a positive school climate include:

- *Creating a safe school community* by establishing bullying and youth substance use-prevention programs, implementing physical safety measures to deter or reduce violence, and promoting inclusive classrooms.
- *Enabling a supportive academic, disciplinary, and physical environment* by encouraging achievement-oriented behavior, eliminating discrimination in the administration of student discipline, and keeping school facilities in good condition.
- *Fostering strong school connections and relationships* by showing students they are valued and respected and implementing positive behavior management strategies in the classroom.

For additional school climate resources, visit SchoolSafety.gov's [School Climate](#) topic page. If you have any questions, please contact SchoolSafety@hq.dhs.gov.

CHDS Learning and Research Sites

The Center for Homeland Defense and Security (CHDS) [Executive Education Program](#) conducted a survey of the national Homeland Security practitioner and academic communities from November 14, 2023, to January 22, 2024, to identify educational priorities and topics of interest. The CHDS Executive Education Program will use the findings



in this report to guide program development and educational planning in 2024 and beyond. This report will also be shared with academic partners and national Homeland Security, Emergency Management, Public Health, and Public Safety organizations to inform their educational planning. View the [survey report](#) online.

The application deadline for the [Radiological Emergency Preparedness \(REP\) Early Career Executive Education Program](#) has been extended to **March 22, 2024**. The Program is designed for local, state, Federal, tribal, territorial, and industry early career leaders responsible for off-site, fixed nuclear facility emergency preparedness, response, and recovery. This Program offers a unique opportunity for REP professionals in the early stage of their career or transitioning into a REP-focused position. Apply now.

The Homeland Security Digital Library (HSDL) published the [latest Critical Releases in Homeland Security](#).

Extension Disaster Education Network Annual Conference

The 2024 Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN) Annual Conference Committee invites EDEN Points of Contact and Delegates, Cooperative Extension Professionals, Partners, and Researchers to [submit an abstract](#) to be considered for the EDEN Conference, October 22–25 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Submission Deadline: April 24, 2024

Presenters to be notified by May 31, 2024

In this submission form, be prepared to include the following related to the submission:

- Primary Presenter Information: first and last name, institution, phone number, and email address.
- Co-Presenter(s): Name and institution.
- Title of presentation.
- Presentation type: Program or poster.
- Program area(s): 4-H Youth Development, Agriculture, Natural Resources, Communications, Community and Economic Development, Family Consumer Sciences, Sea Grant, Research, or Other.
- Submission topic funding acknowledgement, if applicable.
- An abstract to be used by the reviewers for evaluation of the submission. The abstract should be 750 words or less and include the following:
 - Topic
 - Background and/or theoretical framework
 - Research question, purpose, thesis, or organizing concept and the scope of presentation



- Methodology and/or program development
- Funder, if appropriate
- Sources of data used, if appropriate
- Results and/or evaluation
- Conclusions, recommendations, and implications
- A summary of the submission to be used as a description in the program. The summary should be 200 words or less.

2024 International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) Poster Showcase Submission Portal is Now Open!

This information-sharing event occurs at the Annual Conference each year. Participants have an opportunity to convey to a wide audience the significance of their research project, practice, or general findings to practitioners and scholars in the Emergency Management community and earn speaking credit towards the IAEM Certification Program.

Requirements and Tips:

- View the Conference Committee recorded webinar on [Tips for IAEM Poster Showcase Success](#).
- Step-by-step instructions and a list of dates you should know are found in the [Poster Showcase Guidance](#).

Choose one of two divisions:

1. ***Competitive***

- Choose a category: practitioner, academic, or student (undergraduate or graduate).
- Present your poster to a group of evaluators to qualify for gold, silver, or bronze recognition from IAEM.

2. ***Non-Competitive***

No categories; participants share their research or practice with others at the Conference.

Participation Benefits:

- Participants chosen to display their posters and who have completed the division requirements will receive a discounted registration rate:
 - Competitive Division: half off the speaker rate



Drexel Climate Change and Urban Health Research Center Launches

[The Drexel Climate Change and Urban Health Research Center Launches.](#) On March 20th, the Drexel Climate Change and Urban Health Research Center (CCUH) was formally launched in an event held at Dornsife. Funded by a multi-million-dollar grant from the National Institute of Environmental Health Science, the CCUH will support research to help protect the growing urban populations of the world from the adverse health and equity effects of climate change.



Team members at the Drexel Climate Change and Urban Health Research Center launch event.

[Sign up via our free e-mail subscription service](#) to receive notifications and information updates.

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

Download the [FEMA 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.

