

# FEMA Higher Education Newsletter

Quarterly: September 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 its inception in 1994, the FEMA Higher Education Program has been instrumental in cultivating academic excellence within the field of Emergency Management at colleges and universities nationwide. Originally established at the Emergency Management Institute (EMI), the Program transitioned to FEMA's National Training and Education Division (NTED) Headquarters in 2017. The Program continues to operate physically from the National Emergency Training Center (NETC) campus in Emmitsburg, MD, ensuring continuity and fostering collaboration between academia, Emergency Management practitioners, and FEMA's Training and Education enterprise.

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

## The 27<sup>th</sup> Annual FEMA Emergency Management Higher Education Symposium

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**SAVE THE DATE! The 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Federal Emergency Management Agency Emergency Management Higher Education Symposium will be held on June 2–4, 2025. The Symposium is hosted by FEMA's Higher Education Program and held at the National Emergency Training Center campus in Emmitsburg, MD. There is no registration fee, and lodging is free! Details will be posted online no later than November 2024. An overview of the 2024 Symposium can be found in our [July newsletter](#)!**

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 empower communities to navigate and overcome the complexities of disasters and emergencies by educating the next generation of Emergency Managers.



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## Higher Education Community Webinars

The FEMA Higher Education Program hosts monthly **Community Webinars** on the third Friday of each month. The monthly Community Webinar series provides a platform for researchers, academics, practitioners, and students to engage with and contribute to the advancement of Emergency Management topics. These webinars serve as a forum for discussing FEMA-sponsored research and special projects, ongoing or published research, sharing best practices, and fostering networking opportunities within the higher education community.

The monthly Community Webinars promote collaboration, innovation, and knowledge sharing within the FEMA Higher Education Program, ultimately enhancing the capacity of higher education institutions to contribute to disaster preparedness, response, and resilience efforts.

The 2024 Monthly Community Webinars schedule and details are posted at [FEMA Higher Education Program | Community Webinars](#).

### 2024 Monthly Community Webinars Schedule | 2–3 p.m. EST via Zoom

Date	Presentation Title	Presenter(s)
Friday, September 20, 2024	Living in a Waterworld: How Climate Change Intensifies Flooding of Atlantic Tropical Storms	Dr. Sara Belligoni, University of Central Florida
Friday, October 18, 2024	Incorporating the Resilience Analysis and Planning Tool into Emergency Management Courses	Dr. John Carr, Argonne National Laboratory, and Benjamin Rance, Analysis and Capacity Division, Resilience Analysis Branch, FEMA
Friday, November 15, 2024	“We were ready for fire, but not flood”: Exploring Whole-Community Recovery and Resiliency in the Rural Intermountain West	Dr. Lauren McKeague, University of Montana, and Dr. Christina Barsky, University of Vermont

## 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, Doctoral, 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 Program website. If you have a new or updated program(s) to include, email [fema-emi-collegelist@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:fema-emi-collegelist@fema.dhs.gov).

The Program staff is currently sending out annual update emails. Please keep an eye out for these messages to ensure that your program remains listed and up to date.



**Latest program additions:**

- American National University – [Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity](#)
- American National University – [Master of Science in Cybersecurity](#)
- American Samoa Community College – [Associate of Science in Inclusive-Emergency Management](#)
- American Samoa Community College – [Associate of Science in Homeland Security](#)
- Columbia Southern University – [Doctor of Emergency Management](#)
- Pikes Peak State College – [Associate of Applied Science in Fire Science Technology](#)
- University of New Haven – [Bachelor of Science in Emergency Management](#)

## FEMA Higher Education Program Research Awards

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**Overview:** The FEMA Higher Education Program supports initiatives that bridge the gap between research and practice in Emergency Management. Through the solicitation of multidisciplinary and applied research proposals, this Program aims to address complex challenges and offer actionable recommendations to advance the discipline and profession of Emergency Management. Projects delve into intricate challenges within the field of Emergency Management, offering actionable insights and recommendations for advancement, and align closely with FEMA's Strategic Plan to ensure congruence with the Agency's overarching objectives.

### FY24 Research Awards

Congratulations to the recipients of the FY24 research proposal awards! Following a competitive review process, the awards listed below are currently being processed for FY24:

- **Equitable Emergency Management: Exploring Certs in Rural Underserved Areas**  
Michelle Meyer, Associate Professor, Texas A&M University
- **Making Disaster Risk Messaging More Relatable: An Experimental Study with Generative Artificial Intelligence**  
Amir Behzadan, Professor, University of Colorado Boulder
- **Strengthening Preparedness Against Texas Wildfire: Exploring Characteristics, Causes, and Potential Prevention Efforts through Community-Based Participatory Research**  
Shinwoo Choi, Assistant Professor, Texas State University
- **Identity Management Technologies and Responder Use in Incident Response Operations**  
Mark Landahl, Associate Professor, Jacksonville State University
- **Climate Storytelling for Community Vision and Resilience**  
Andreas Pape, Professor, Binghamton University SUNY



- **Phase Two Pilot Evaluation for Training Fire-Based EMS in LGBTQ+ Cultural Awareness**  
Casper Voyles, Assistant Professor, Hamline University
- **Exploring the Use of Visual Storytelling in Supporting Post-Disaster Community Sensemaking**  
Lauren McKeague, Assistant Professor, University of Montana
- **Evaluating Cybersecurity Capacity of Michigan's Upper Peninsula Water Sector**  
Jongeun You, Assistant Professor, Northern Michigan University
- **A Study of Local Emergency Management Agency Planning Resource Needs in the United States**  
Julia Crowley, Assistant Professor, University of Missouri-Kansas City

## Research Award Impact

The recently published free e-book, [Current and Emerging Trends in the Management of International Disasters](#), was funded by the FEMA Higher Education Program in 2023. The edited and refereed book examines major problems and innovative solutions throughout the international Emergency Management community, focusing on current and emerging trends in disaster management crossing social and geo-political borders. **This free resource is now accessible for practitioners and can also serve as course material.**

**Congratulations to awardees/editors, Dr. Laura Phipps and Dr. David A. McEntire, who are currently working with Kendall Hunt to publish in hard copy.**

***Note: The analysis, conclusions, and recommendations contained in the materials are attributable solely to the authors and are not necessarily endorsed by DHS, FEMA, or the Higher Education Program.***

## On the Road with FEMA Higher Education

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The FEMA Higher Education Program will attend the [2024 Annual National HBCU Week Conference](#) in Philadelphia, PA, September 15–17, 2024, and [IAEM Annual Conference & EMEX](#) in Colorado Springs, CO, November 15–20, 2024. If you plan to be in attendance and would like to meet with the FEMA Higher Education Program Manager, email [fema-hied@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:fema-hied@fema.dhs.gov).

## FEMA Higher Education SIG Announcements

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[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.



# FEMA

### Exciting News: New Co-Leads for the Ethics SIG

We are thrilled to announce the appointment of new Co-Leads for the [Ethics SIG](#). We extend our deepest gratitude to Drs. Sandy Smith and Shirley Feldman-Jensen for their exceptional leadership and dedication over the years. Their contributions have been instrumental in shaping the foundation of our Ethics SIG and supporting the higher education community.

As we welcome **Meghan Dunn, Ph.D., from St. John's University**, and **Andrea Adams, Esq., from the University of the District of Columbia**, we are confident they will build on this legacy and continue to provide invaluable guidance to Emergency Management professionals.

Please join us in celebrating and supporting our new Co-Leads as they embark on this exciting journey. We look forward to the continued success and innovative achievements that lie ahead!

### Introducing the NEW West-Pac SIG and Co-Leads

We are excited to announce the appointment of our new Co-Leads for the West-Pac SIG, a dynamic initiative representing the collaborative spirit of Regions VIII and IX. The West-Pac Consortium brings together states and territories from the American West and Pacific, united in a vision to enhance Emergency and Disaster Management education tailored to the unique needs of these regions.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone involved in the Consortium's development and are pleased to introduce the new Co-Leads who will guide this important endeavor: **Tafaimamao Tua-Tupuola, M.Ed., from American Samoa Community College**, and **David McEntire, Ph.D., from Utah Valley University**. Their leadership promises to drive forward the mission of strengthening Emergency Management practices and education across diverse contexts.

Please join us in welcoming Tafa and David as they step into their new roles. We look forward to the impactful advancements they will bring to the West-Pac Consortium!

## NDEMU Building Bridges: Working Together to Advance Emergency Management

As FEMA's flagship training campus with roots that go back to the early 1950s, the Emergency Management Institute will now be known as the National Disaster & Emergency Management University (NDEMU). This transformation, announced in July 2024, increases our preparedness as a Nation by allowing for nimble response and increasing collaboration with the higher education community.

NDEMU will continue EMI's tradition of immersive technical training for Emergency Management professionals, and will further expand by integrating academic thought, research, and adaptability into its core. A key component of this transformation will be providing accredited development programs for disaster professionals in the mid to late stages of their careers.





“I see this as a cradle-to-grave model for professional development,” said Jeffrey D. Stern, Ph.D., Superintendent at the National Disaster & Emergency Management University. “Emergency Managers will come to the NDEMU at the beginning of their career to receive entry-level training. After several years, a professional can return for specialty programs and then continue to hone their skills throughout their entire career.”

Alongside of many thought leaders and subject matter experts at the higher education level, FEMA has recognized that adjustments would be necessary to meet the ever-changing and dynamic challenges that emergencies will present. The expansion to a university model aims to address many of those changes by enhancing technical training through increased collaboration with academia and thought leaders. This collaboration can also provide much-needed standardization to the field of Emergency Management.

“We rely on you to help build the skillsets of our Emergency Managers so they can bridge successfully from the classroom to the field,” FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell told an audience of higher education professionals at a symposium in Emmitsburg, Maryland, when she announced the NDEMU’s transformation.

Part of FEMA’s impetus to transform to a university model is to provide greater insight and experiences for student-professionals by increasing collaboration with experts and academics in higher education and thought leadership groups who bring entire careers of collective knowledge and experience in the field.

“We want to create a model that brings together academia and Emergency Management practitioners, a unique combination that will take field experiences into the classroom”, said Stern. While no degrees will be conferred by NDEMU, student-professionals will continue to receive course completion certificates and identified continuing education credits. For example, NDEMU currently offers an introductory Independent Study course associated with the Climate Adaptation and Hazard Mitigation Certificate and will develop certificate programs in other areas of need in the coming months and years. These new training programs and acknowledgements of course completions are intended to complement undergraduate and graduate degrees in Emergency Management that are already available at hundreds of universities across the Nation. NDEMU will complement degree-granting institutions by providing training and education to middle- and advanced- stage practitioners, many of whom have a degree in the field from an accredited university.

“At its core, the NDEMU will serve as a center for thought leadership and bring in innovations and lessons from practitioners and academia,” Stern said. “To bridge the gap between our technical training and theory-based, research-based education that is teaching people how to think critically about Emergency Management and preparedness.”

Announcement provided for the Higher Education Newsletter by NDEMU. For more information visit [The National Disaster & Emergency Management University website](#). For questions, please reach out to NDEMU through the [Contact Us](#) link on the webpage; select Training Questions on the Contact Form.



# FEMA

## External Higher Education Events, Resources, and Surveys

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### National Resilience Guidance (NRG)

FEMA is proud to announce the release of the **National Resilience Guidance (NRG)**. The NRG offers a unifying vision of resilience and the principles and steps all communities and organizations can take to increase their resilience in every sector and discipline. FEMA will host a series of 60-minute webinar sessions in September and October to discuss the NRG and additional resources available to help new and experienced resilience practitioners improve their communities' resilience. To view the document and learn more about the webinar sessions, visit the [National Resilience Guidance | FEMA.gov](#).

### FEMA Region II Higher Education Roundtable

The next Region II Higher Ed Roundtable will be the **Second Annual Higher Ed Roundtable on Climate Resilience** hosted by Columbia University's Climate School and Columbia's National Center for Disaster Preparedness on October 17, 2024. A robust list of presenters and presentations are expected to include Columbia's Climate School, National Tribal Emergency Management Council, a panel discussion featuring climate experts from Puerto Rico, New York, and New Jersey, another panel discussion with NYC, Gavin Smith from NCSU, and Davis Abrahmson from NYU. Additional speakers will include Julie Nucci, Andreas Pape, and Kristen Hychka, along with a special presentation from Allen Walker from NSF and Dale McShine from FEMA Grants discussing funding. Region II is also looking for various projects to track year-to-year, since this is now an annual event. Please note virtual attendance is available. For more information, contact [mark.strohoefer@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:mark.strohoefer@fema.dhs.gov).

### Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU)'s 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

Register for [Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities \(HACU\)'s 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference](#) and pre-conference events, taking place November 1–3, 2024, at the Gaylord Rockies Resort and Convention Center. Pre-conference events include a Deans' Forum and Women's Leadership Symposium on October 31, and Latino Higher Education Leadership Institute and PreK-12/Higher Education Collaboration Symposium on November 1, 2024.

### CPSE Center for Innovation

On August 5, 2024, during the Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE) Summer Symposium, **CPSE introduced the CPSE Center for Innovation**. A wholly owned 501 (c)(3) nonprofit subsidiary, the CPSE Center for Innovation will address an industry-wide gap in evidence-based decision making. Read more about this new organization and its recent [first look Open House](#). For additional information, visit the [CPSE Center for Innovation website](#).

### Chronicle Festival – The Road Ahead to 2025

The Virtual Ideas Summit will take place September 10–12, 2024. Hosted by the Chronicle of Higher Education, professors, administrators, researchers, and policymakers must plan now for student demographic shifts, rapid technological change, and an uncertain labor market. What can your institution do to adapt? Join your peers, Chronicle experts, and thought leaders for an exploration of the road ahead to 2035, at this year's [Chronicle Festival](#).





## Survey Participants Needed

Researchers at St. John's University are inviting Emergency Management practitioners, researchers, or faculty members to participate in a [Modified Delphi Survey on Emotional Intelligence Competencies related to Emergency Management](#). The survey focuses on emotional intelligence and Emergency Management, and the data collected will be utilized to explore emotional intelligence within Emergency Management in terms of practice and training. This Modified Delphi Survey will consist of participation in three rounds, and each round will take approximately 5 minutes to complete.

Please note that your information will be confidential, and there are no personal or opinion questions. Participation is voluntary, and completed surveys are the property of the researchers. The findings will be summarized, presented in a final report, and available to all study participants. A journal article and conference paper/presentation will also be disseminated to a broader audience within Emergency Management. For questions, contact Dr. Bernard A Jones at [jonesb1@stjohns.edu](mailto:jonesb1@stjohns.edu) or Dr. Nancy DiTunnariello at [ditunnnan@stjohns.edu](mailto:ditunnnan@stjohns.edu).

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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](mailto:fema-hied@fema.dhs.gov).

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The resources in this newsletter are compiled from a variety of sources to support education and research efforts. 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 does not endorse any non-government websites, companies, or applications.



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