

# HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAM

NATIONAL TRAINING AND EDUCATION DIVISION • NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS DIRECTORATE  
NATIONAL EMERGENCY TRAINING CENTER • EMMITSBURG, MD



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### Message from the Higher Education Program Manager

Dear Emergency Management Higher Education Academics & Friends,

A lot can happen in two weeks! Like many of you, the Higher Education Program (HiEd) team is now working full time from home. We are getting familiar with virtual tools to stay connected and productive. With all training at the National Emergency Training Center (NETC) suspended until May 10<sup>th</sup> we have determined that we need to move the Annual Emergency Management Higher Education Symposium to a virtual space to accommodate the rescheduling of critical training needs. HiEd is looking at this as a challenge to create successful virtual connections and an opportunity to allow our content to be shared more broadly.

HiEd will be working with the Symposium Planning Special Interest Group (SIG) to discern possible options. We understand that many of you blocked the time on your calendar and we want to take advantage of that if we can. We also realize that our community resides in multiple time zones. We are working to explore various courses of action to convene our community and share the outstanding submissions and work underway in the discipline. HiEd will provide updates and information in this newsletter and on our website. If you are interested in participating in the symposium planning, please consider joining our next SIG planning meeting scheduled for April 6<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 p.m. ET. Send me an email ([wendy.walsh@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:wendy.walsh@fema.dhs.gov)), and I will provide you with the log-in information to join us.

In our last newsletter, I shared that the 45<sup>th</sup> American Education Research Association (AERA) annual meeting had moved to a free virtual engagement. Since that posting, the AERA annual meeting has been cancelled. This is the first time the AERA meeting has been cancelled since World War II. The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) focus group has pivoted again to make the most of their time and will be sharing the outcome of their work virtually at our symposium.

I also reported in our last newsletter that the FEMA Region IX wildland urban interface academic collaboration event scheduled for April 22<sup>nd</sup> would be held virtually. Last week the decision was made to postpone as many practitioners were no longer able to attend. The planning committee is continuing to meet



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to discuss options including a potential op-ed piece on the impact of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in relation to the wildfire threat.

Over the years, I have heard from faculty and students alike that there is a largely untapped workforce in emergency management academic programs across our nation. We continue to work with the Jobs & Internship SIG and others at FEMA to create strong pathways to emergency management careers. With this unprecedented global emergency, numerous organizations have positions available, whether volunteer or paid, for emergency management students and recent graduates, and this is expected to increase. The International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) has updated their jobseekers board to make it easier for potential employers to find interested applicants like you. They strongly encourage you to upload your resume and qualifications to the IAEM jobs board at [jobs.iaem.com](https://jobs.iaem.com). A Slack group has also been created where students and recent grads can network, get feedback on resumes, receive interview tips, and share job opportunities with each other. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, they will explore additional trainings through Slack to assist you in your efforts to be a part of the emergency management community. If you are interested in joining this Slack group, visit <https://forms.gle/7CEHgt4UWRaBz1kB8>. Please share this information widely across our community of practice.

Wishing you all good and continued health!

## Higher Education Program Update

**The Hi Ed Community conference call is Friday, April 17, 2020, from 2-3 p.m. ET, 800-320-4330, PIN: 376368. Please join us.** Learn from the emergency management academic community about what is new and exciting in their world. Find out about ongoing projects and discuss community needs that the Hi Ed Program can address. Contact Wendy Walsh, [wendy.walsh@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:wendy.walsh@fema.dhs.gov), with your discussion topics.

**Hi Ed Program Webinars** - The Hi Ed Program regularly hosts webinars for the emergency management higher education community. If you have a pertinent topic or suggestion, contact Wendy Walsh ([wendy.walsh@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:wendy.walsh@fema.dhs.gov)).

**Special Interest Groups (SIGs).** The Hi Ed Program encourages the organization of SIGs to support the increased exchange of knowledge in specific areas and applications of emergency management education. SIG members can potentially become involved in co-authoring/researching and serving as mentors to students and as subject matter experts to practitioners. [Click here for more information and a list of SIGs](#). To join a SIG, send an email to Barbara Johnson at [Barbara.Johnson3@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:Barbara.Johnson3@fema.dhs.gov).

**The 22nd Annual Emergency Management Higher Education Symposium is scheduled for June 1-4, 2020.** The latest information is available on the Hi Ed website. The 2020 symposium theme is “Imagination, Improvisation, and Innovation in Emergency Management Education.”



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- Applications for the 2020 symposium will be submitted to Admissions **online only**. The application and instructions can be found on the Hi Ed's [symposium page](#). Postal mail, faxed, or scanned applications will not be accepted by Hi Ed staff or the Admissions office.
  - Symposium course code: E8510 and date: June 1-4, 2020.
  - Please note when completing the online application, the application will time-out after 15 minutes.
  - Make sure you put in the proper country. This section defaults to the United States.
  - Applications do not need supervisor approval. Applicants can sign off for themselves.

## **Award Nominations:**

- **SoTL Award:** Have you or a colleague published one or more studies about pedagogy or andragogy in Emergency Management and/or Homeland Security (EM/HS) higher education? Then apply for the SoTL Award for yourself or a colleague presented at the 2020 Higher Education Symposium. Sponsored by the University of Central Florida's School of Public Administration, this annual award is based on specific criteria and recognizes outstanding SoTL efforts within the EM/HS disciplines. The deadline is April 30, 2020. More information can be found on the Hi Ed [website](#).
- **Kay C. Goss Innovation & Technology Award:** Nominations are now being solicited by Arkansas Tech University (ATU). The effective candidate should demonstrate the following qualities:
  - A record of regular participation in FEMA's 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Emergency Management Higher Education Symposium.
  - Outstanding teaching effectiveness both within and outside the classroom using emerging technologies.
  - The ability to inspire, promote and develop emergency management programs, professors and students through innovative methods.
  - Professional contributions to the field of emergency management.

To Make A Nomination:

- Send a letter addressing how the nominee meets the criteria listed above to [EAM@ATU.EDU](mailto:EAM@ATU.EDU). The deadline for submissions is April 24, 2020 at 5 p.m. The award will be presented at the 2020 Higher Education Symposium.

- **EM/HS Doctoral Graduates**

The Hi Ed Program would like to celebrate your recent PhD graduates in our 2020 Higher Education Symposium program. The program section entitled "Future Faculty Spotlight" highlights and shares the accomplishments of the community's recent doctoral students and their work. If you have anyone that you would like to include, please provide their name, school, dissertation title and a picture. Send information to [Rebecca Burns](mailto:Rebecca.Burns@associates.fema.dhs.gov) at [rebecca.burns@associates.fema.dhs.gov](mailto:rebecca.burns@associates.fema.dhs.gov).

- **Student Research Presentation - Pre-conference Session, June 1, 2020**

This session is an opportunity for undergraduate, masters and doctoral students to present research and explain their methodology. After the presentations, students will discuss graduate programs, schools, and



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how they arrived at their choices. Send an email to [Barbara.Johnson3@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:Barbara.Johnson3@fema.dhs.gov) for a Student Research Proposal Guide.

## College List

**The College List**, located at <https://training.fema.gov/hiedu/collegelist/>, is a comprehensive online resource that outlines programs at all levels of study in EM, HS and related fields including public health, international disaster relief, and humanitarian assistance. Information is stored in a program database for analysis and management; Hi Ed Program staff do not provide college recommendations or discuss the relative merits of the colleges and universities listed. If you have a new or updated program to include, send an email to [fema-emi-collegelist@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:fema-emi-collegelist@fema.dhs.gov).

## Employment

Federal vacancies are posted on USAJOBS at <https://www.usajobs.gov>. When you save a search, they will automatically send email updates with new jobs that match the criteria.

Higher Education Vacancies:

- [Monmouth University](#) - Adjunct, Epidemiology
- [Tulane University](#) - Postdoc Fellow, Epidemiology
- [Tarleton State University](#) - Assistant/Associate Professor of Criminal Justice
- [The College at Brockport, State University of New York](#) - Adjunct Lecturer - Criminal Justice
- [Hilbert College](#) - Online Adjunct Instructor - Criminal Justice/Cybersecurity
- [CTU Denver](#) - Adjunct Instructor Cybersecurity
- [Mercy College](#) - Assistant Professor, Cybersecurity
- [University of Maryland Global Campus](#) - Collegiate Faculty, Homeland Security, Intelligence & Emergency Management
- [Monmouth University](#) - Adjunct, Homeland Security - Geographic Information Systems
- [Bunker Hill Community College](#) - Adjunct Faculty: Geographical Information Systems (GIS)
- [Marymount Manhattan College](#) - Director of Emergency Management

### FEMA Recruits Evacuated Peace Corps Volunteers

More than 7,000 Peace Corps, AmeriCorps and FEMA Corps volunteers have been released from service due to the COVID-19 pandemic. FEMA has a message to the Peace Corps volunteers released from service and looking for a new opportunity: We're hiring!

FEMA has full-time and intermittent positions available in a variety of fields. Peace Corps Volunteers can use their skills and experience engaging diverse communities worldwide to help people before, during and after disasters here at home.

On April 15, FEMA will hold a webinar for returning Peace Corps volunteers featuring employees who are service alumni. They will talk about how their service prepared them for a career in emergency management.



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Register for the webinar on the [Peace Corps RPCV Portal](#).

## Internship, Scholarship and Training Opportunities



### The White House Internship Program

The Fall 2020 White House Internship Program application period is now open. The application portal will remain open until 11:59 p.m. ET on Friday, April 24, 2020.

For more information and to apply: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/get-involved/internships/apply/>.

### FEMA Summer Intern Announcements

Summer intern announcements are now posted to USAJOBS (at <https://www.usajobs.gov>)

[FEMA-20-SC-SUMINT10-0399](#) - Washington DC & Winchester, VA

[FEMA-20-SC-SUMINT11-0099](#) - Washington DC & Winchester, VA

[FEMA-20-SC-SUMINT12-2299](#) - Washington DC & Winchester, VA

[FEMA-20-SC-SUMINT13-0099](#) - Chicago, IL

[FEMA-20-SC-SUMINT14-0099](#) - Denton, TX

**The Social and Economic Analysis Branch** (<https://www.usgs.gov/centers/fort/science/social-and-economic-analysis-sea>) of the U.S. Geological Survey in Fort Collins, Colorado, is hiring two social science research assistants to start summer 2020. These are full-time positions that begin on or around July 1, 2020. Employees will be physically located in Fort Collins. Currently, one year of funding is available.

**Contact Information:** For questions related directly to the positions, contact Amanda Cravens, research social scientist, at [aecravens@usgs.gov](mailto:aecravens@usgs.gov) or James Meldrum, research economist, at [jmeldrum@usgs.gov](mailto:jmeldrum@usgs.gov).

**To Apply:** Please submit a cover letter, resume, transcripts (unofficial ok) and a writing sample demonstrating your ability to synthesize social science literature to [aecravens@usgs.gov](mailto:aecravens@usgs.gov) by 11:59 p.m. (Mountain Time) Sunday, April 19. Please use “Social Science Research Assistant application” as the subject line for your email.

## Resources

*The resources below are compiled through a variety of sources and included here as interesting and relevant resources for research or classroom use. The links are provided as a convenience and for informational purposes only. They do not constitute any endorsement or approval by FEMA or the Higher Education Program.*

[FEMA Administrator March 27, 2020, letter to Emergency Managers Requesting Action on Critical Steps](https://bit.ly/33XQtQC)  
(<https://bit.ly/33XQtQC>)

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The Disaster Information Management Research Center [Disaster Lit®: Database for Disaster Medicine and Public Health](https://disasterinfo.nlm.nih.gov/disaster-lit) (<https://disasterinfo.nlm.nih.gov/disaster-lit>) database has recently been updated and is now available.

The NETC Library has a very comprehensive collection of Fire/EMS, emergency management and homeland security resources, including resources concerning pandemics and infectious diseases. The collection includes resources on planning for pandemics as well as lessons learned. To request a resource send an [interlibrary loan request](https://www.usfa.fema.gov/data/library/about/ill.html) (<https://www.usfa.fema.gov/data/library/about/ill.html>) from a local library.

[Pandemics](https://bit.ly/2yfJFC2) (<https://bit.ly/2yfJFC2>)

[Health security](https://bit.ly/2xBeEbC) (<https://bit.ly/2xBeEbC>)

[Infectious diseases](https://bit.ly/2URpcv0) (<https://bit.ly/2URpcv0>)

Inside Higher Ed

[How Colleges Can Better Help Faculty During The Pandemic](https://bit.ly/3dKVEYv) (<https://bit.ly/3dKVEYv>)

[The Big Transition](https://bit.ly/2yixiFj) (<https://bit.ly/2yixiFj>)

[Coping With A Pandemic](https://bit.ly/3bGYJqY) (<https://bit.ly/3bGYJqY>)

[Preparing For A Fall Without In-Person Classes](https://bit.ly/33ZfFq2) (<https://bit.ly/33ZfFq2>)

FEMA PrepTalks: Dr. Sophia Liu's ["Crowdsourcing and Citizen Science as Force Multipliers for Emergency Management."](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IAbLbJKtTM0&feature=youtu.be) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IAbLbJKtTM0&feature=youtu.be>)

LA Times

[The West is in an expanding 20-year drought that a 'March Miracle' will do little to change](https://lat.ms/2QWMwpV) (<https://lat.ms/2QWMwpV>)

FEMA has expanded capabilities for the **Resilience Analysis and Planning Tool (RAPT)**. These capabilities include census tract data and additional infrastructure layers for all state, local, tribal and territorial jurisdictions across the nation. This update to the tool enables a better analysis of community resilience indicators. It also allows users to calculate the population of individuals with specific indicator characteristics in selected census tracts. It can be used to inform strategies for preparedness, response and recovery activities related to the coronavirus pandemic and other disasters.

The free Geographic Information System web map tool allows users to combine layers of community resilience indicators, infrastructure locations and hazard data to visualize, prioritize and implement strategies to impact resilience, response and recovery. The updated tool also provides important census-tract level demographic information and infrastructure locations related to coronavirus pandemic planning and response efforts. This includes the location and size of infrastructure entities such as hospitals, nursing homes, urgent care facilities, public health departments, and pharmacies; population count and demographics of individuals within a containment zone (e.g. over age 65, disability, education); and visualization tools.



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Beginning Thursday, April 2, FEMA will hold a series of one-hour training webinars to provide additional background on the tool, demonstrate multiple capabilities and answer questions from users. Webinars are open to all. The Resilience Analysis and Planning Tool is publicly available at <https://bit.ly/ResilienceAnalysisandPlanningTool>. Supporting documents and information on scheduled webinars can be found at <https://www.fema.gov/de/media-library/assets/documents/176618>.

## FEMA Extends Preparedness Grants Application Deadline

In response to COVID-19, FEMA will extend the deadline to submit applications for the following five preparedness grant programs:

- [Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program](#)
- [Transit Security Grant Program](#)
- [Intercity Bus Security Grant Program](#)
- [Intercity Passenger Rail program](#)
- [Port Security Grant Program](#)

Applications must be received by the new submission deadline of 5 p.m. ET on April 30, 2020 deadline. Additional questions may be directed to the Grants Program Directorate.

## Natural Hazards Center

The research activities of the [Natural Hazards Center](#) focus on the social, behavioral, socioeconomic, mental health, and other societal aspects of hazards and disasters, using quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods approaches. Current and recently completed projects involve research with a range of population groups, including potentially vulnerable groups such as children, elderly persons and low-income populations. Studies explore topics throughout the hazards cycle, from mitigation and preparedness to response and recovery. Various types of hazards are addressed in the Center's research portfolio, ranging from earthquakes, floods and hurricanes to toxic hazards and technological disasters. Research activities span urban and rural areas in the U.S. and other countries. Studies frequently involve collaborations with researchers from engineering and natural science disciplines. [For more information and a list of research projects](#) (<https://hazards.colorado.edu/research-projects/index>)

## Calendar

### San Fernando Earthquake Conference - 50 years of Lifeline Engineering, February 7-10, 2021

The deadline for abstract submission for the *San Fernando Earthquake Conference - 50 years of Lifeline Engineering* (Lifelines2021) has been extended to May 5, 2020. More information can be found at the conference website: <https://samueli.ucla.edu/lifelines2021/>.

### University of Colorado Boulder, Natural Hazards Center

Based on the interest of the research community and the mission to advance convergence science for the benefit of humanity, CONVERGE is offering awards to those who wish to launch COVID-19 Working Groups for Public Health and Social Sciences Research.

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CONVERGE and the Social Science Extreme Events Research (SSEER) Network will fund up to 30 COVID-19 Working Groups focused on issues and innovations in methods, ethics and empirical areas of inquiry. See the Working Groups webpage (<https://converge.colorado.edu/resources/covid-19/working-groups>) for specific examples and requirements. Applications will be accepted between April 4 and April 13, 2020. Funding announcements for Working Groups will be made by April 17, 2020.

A CONVERGE Virtual Forum will be held on Friday, April 3, from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. MDT. (Register: <https://cuboulder.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAodu-vpzMpgMGE3IrfwLJ0qJ8hJ7tA>)

During this forum, researchers will have the opportunity to share ideas for Working Groups while connecting with one another. We will also discuss the Working Group application requirements and begin the process of prioritizing areas of pressing societal and scientific concern. If you would like to be added to the agenda to discuss a Working Group or to ask about the application process, please send an email to [converge@colorado.edu](mailto:converge@colorado.edu).

The CONVERGE and SSEER teams have also worked with partners to develop a COVID-19 Global Research Registry for Public Health and Social Sciences (<https://converge.colorado.edu/resources/covid-19/public-health-social-sciences-registry>). If you are interested in learning more about this and other initiatives, please sign up for updates via the CONVERGE website. (<https://converge.colorado.edu/signup>)

## **COVID-19 Guidance: Procurements Under Grants During Periods of Emergency or Exigency**

Webinar training is offered March 30 – April 10, 2020. The one-hour training will help participants understand how to properly contract during emergency or exigent circumstances when using federal funds. For more information and for specific training in your region contact [Wendy.Walsh@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:Wendy.Walsh@fema.dhs.gov).

### **Target Audience:**

State, local, and tribal emergency management personnel, houses of worship, and private nonprofit entities; Public Assistance applicants

### **Topics include:**

Sole sourcing under Emergency or Exigency (E&E); additional procurement under grant requirements under E&E; use of pre-existing contracts during E&E

### **Delivery Format:**

Online training through Adobe Connect. If you have never used this platform, test your connection in advance: [https://fema.connectsolutions.com/common/help/en/support/meeting\\_test.htm](https://fema.connectsolutions.com/common/help/en/support/meeting_test.htm)

### **Resources You Can Use Now:**

- [COVID-19 Memo: Procurement Under Grants Conducted Under Emergency or Exigent Circumstances](#)
- [COVID-19 Fact Sheet: Procurements Under Grants During Periods of Exigent or Emergency Circumstances](#)
- [Contract Provisions Template](#)
- [PA Reasonable Cost Evaluation Job Aid](#)



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For additional information and trainings on the federal procurement standards, please visit the PDAT website at [www.fema.gov/procurement-disaster-assistance-team](http://www.fema.gov/procurement-disaster-assistance-team).

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***Download the FEMA App*** (URL: <https://www.fema.gov/mobile-app>) ***to receive weather alerts from the NWS for up to five different locations anywhere in the U.S. Sign up via our free e-mail subscription service*** (URL: [https://service.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSFEMA/subscriber/new?topic\\_id=USDHSFEMA\\_149](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.*

*FEMA and the Hi Ed Program do not endorse any non-government websites, companies or applications.*