26th Annual

Emergency Management Higher Education Symposium

Pioneering Ideas and Practices in Emergency Management Higher Education: Building More Resilient Communities
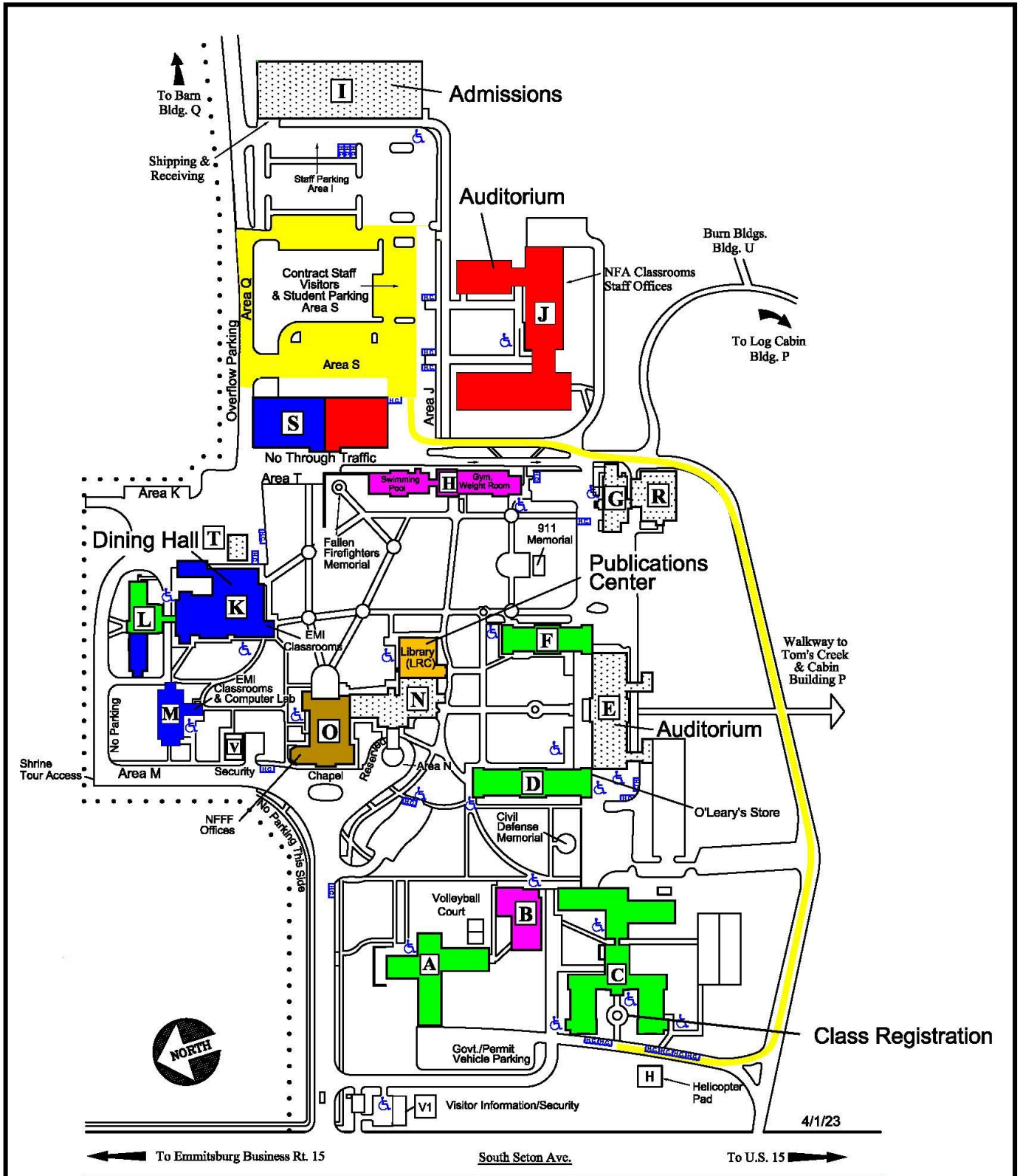
June 3 – 5, 2024

FEMA

#FEMAHiEd

Campus Map

To Barn Bldg. Q

Shipping & Receiving

Staff Parking Area I

I — Admissions

Area Q

Overflow Parking

Contract Staff Visitors & Student Parking Area S

Area S

Auditorium

Burn Bldgs. Bldg. U

NFA Classrooms Staff Offices

J

Area J

To Log Cabin Bldg. P

S

No Through Traffic

Area T

Area K

Swimming Pool

H Gym Weight Room

G **R**

911 Memorial

Dining Hall **T**

Fallen Firefighters Memorial

Publications Center

L

K

EMI Classrooms

Library (LRC)

F

Walkway to Tom's Creek & Cabin Building P

No Parking

EMI Classrooms & Computer Lab

N

E

Auditorium

Shrine Tour Access

Area M

M

V

Security

O

Chapel

Reserved

Area N

D

O'Leary's Store

NFFF Offices

No Parking This Side

Civil Defense Memorial

Volleyball Court

B

A

C

Class Registration

NORTH

Govt./Permit Vehicle Parking

H Helicopter Pad

4/1/23

V1 Visitor Information/Security

To Emmitsburg Business Rt. 15

South Seton Ave.

To U.S. 15

Important Phone Numbers:
Security: 1111
Emergency: 9-911
Housing/Transportation: 1048/1113
Dining Hall: 1551

Photo ID required at all times.

Legend

■ EMI Classrooms
■ NFA Classrooms
■ Dormitory
■ Student Parking

■ National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF)
■ Recreational Facilities

Program Welcome

Welcome to FEMA's 26th Annual Emergency Management Higher Education Symposium! This year's theme **"Pioneering Ideas and Practices in Emergency Management Higher Education: Building More Resilient Communities,"** is a focal point for an event that celebrates the 30th anniversary of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Higher Education Program. This theme encapsulates the core mission and objectives of FEMA's Higher Education Program, emphasizing innovation, education, and community resilience.

In the spirit of this theme, the FEMA Higher Education Program has brought together researchers, faculty from multiple disciplines, Emergency Management practitioners, students, and FEMA and DHS staff to share knowledge through workshops, presentations, and panel discussions. We encourage academics, practitioners, and students to use this time as an opportunity to connect with each other, and we hope that the content of this event will inspire and inform the future of Emergency Management education and research.

Thank you,
The FEMA Higher Education Team
National Training and Education Division (NTED)

Please complete daily evaluations for each session you have attended using the QR code below. Expect to receive an email on Friday with an overall Symposium evaluation survey.

All feedback is greatly appreciated!

surveymonkey.com/r/2024HiEdSymposium

Share your photos from the Higher Education Symposium on social media!

#FEMAHiEd

View all Symposium materials on the Higher Education website: training.fema.gov/hiedu/ educonference24.aspx

2025 Save the Date
Week of June 2–6

In Appreciation

Symposium Planning Academic Co-Lead
Dr. Ray Chang, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

We express our profound gratitude to Dr. Ray Chang, Associate Professor in the Department of Security and Emergency Services at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, for his exceptional leadership as the Symposium Planning Academic Co-lead. His wealth of experience and insightful contributions from previous Symposiums have been invaluable to our efforts. The Higher Education Program deeply appreciates his ongoing partnership, which has enriched our collaborative endeavors.

Symposium Planning Committee

Sincere appreciation goes to the dedicated members of the Symposium Planning Committee who have collaborated with the Higher Education team tirelessly over the past year to orchestrate the 2024 Symposium. It is through the collective efforts and unwavering commitment of the Academic Planning Committee that FEMA's 26th Annual Emergency Management Higher Education Symposium has come to fruition. We extend our deepest gratitude for their indispensable support, without which this event would not have been possible. The Planning Committee includes: Adrian Self, Amber Hunt, Brittany Giles-Jones, Brittney Bunker, Candace Thompson, Canika Jourdan-Walker, Dr. Claire Connolly Knox, Corey Flournoy, Damon Coppola, Daniel Green, Daniel McElhinney, Danielle Cortes-DeVito, David Hogg, Dr. David McEntire, Dr. Dawn McLin, Dr. DeeDee Bennett-Gayle, Dottie Nicholas, Gail Brekke, Dr. Goulda Downer, Gregory D'Ercole, Dr. Jamie Stacy, Dr. Jay Van Der Werff, Jean-Wilner Alexandre, Jerry Murphy, John McGough, Dr. Joseph Richmond, Dr. Joshua DeVincenzo, Joshua McDuffie, Dr. Kali Richardson, Dr. Kevin Kupietz, Latisha Nixon-Jones, Dr. Laura Phipps, Lauren DeMarco, Dr. Lucia Velotti, Mark Strohoefer, Michael Strohl, Dr. Oluponmile Olonilua, Peggy Contreras, Randy Carter, Rebecca Kuperberg, Sally Ziolkowski, Dr. Sandy Smith, Shawndolena Arnold-Postell, Dr. Stacy Willett, Stephen Carter, Steve Recca, Sue Wolf-Fordham, Tenley Sablatzky, Dr. Terry Cooper, Theodore Giraud, Tim Sevison, William O'Brien, and Xaymara Diaz.

Presentation Proposal Review Panel

Eighty presentation proposals for 2024 underwent a competitive and rigorous peer review process conducted by FEMA and esteemed members of the academic community. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to Dr. Jamie Stacy, the lead, and all the volunteers from the Symposium Planning Committee who diligently completed the double-blind review process.

### Center for Homeland Defense and Security (CHDS)

Special thanks to Steve Recca, Director of the University and Agency Partnership Program, and the entire team at CHDS at the Naval Postgraduate School for their invaluable expertise and unwavering support. Special acknowledgment goes to Morgan James, Senior Manager of the Executive Education Program, who led the evaluations effort with exceptional skill and dedication.

Damon Coppola, Published Author, Disaster Risk Reduction Advisor | Caroline Hassler, NETC Librarian

Thank you to Damon Coppola for leading the Meet the Authors event, as well as NETC Librarian, Caroline Hassler, for helping coordinate the event. For more information on the NETC library, visit www.usfa.fema.gov/library/.

Symposium Student Meet and Greet

We express our gratitude to Brittany Giles-Jones, Dr. Terry Cooper, and Dr. Kelsey Richardson for their efforts in planning and hosting the Student Meet and Greet. This new session not only provides a warm welcome to students from all institutions but also serves as a valuable space for networking opportunities.
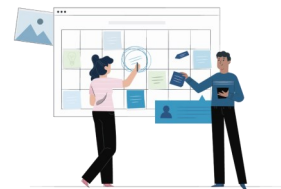
FEMA Fellows and Student Volunteers

We extend our appreciation to Rob Long, Sara Andresen, and Jacqueline Orban of the FEMA National Advisory Council for their leadership of the FEMA Fellows volunteers, comprised of dedicated students from the University of Maryland whose support was instrumental in making this year's Symposium a success. FEMA Fellow volunteers: Angelina Mussini, Anna Carpenter, Clayton Steiner, Ella Lepkowski, Luke Farren, Miriam Stolle, Victoria Boger. Student volunteers: Jennifer Classen and Matthew Van.

National Emergency Training Center (NETC) Campus Staff, the Emergency Management Institute (EMI), and Chenega Contract Support

With gratitude, we extend our sincere appreciation to the entire NETC staff for their unwavering dedication and commitment to enriching our community with invaluable resources. We express our heartfelt thanks to EMI for graciously supporting the Symposium for 26 years, providing a nurturing environment for collaborative learning and growth. Special recognition to Chenega, our trusted on-site EMI contractor whose steadfast support has been instrumental in facilitating our program endeavors.

The Higher Education Program

FEMA's Higher Education Program leverages partnerships across FEMA, DHS, and the academic community to advance Emergency Management and related fields. The Higher Education Program fosters a culture of continuous learning and innovation by supporting Emergency Management faculty, students, and practitioners.

Research and Special Projects

The Higher Education Program annually allocates funding for competitive multi-disciplinary applied research. This research delves into real-world complex problems within Emergency Management, aiming to provide actionable recommendations that propel the discipline forward.

College List

(training.fema.gov/hiedu/collegelist/)

The College List is a self-reported listing of Emergency Management and related programs at universities both nationally and internationally at all levels of study.

If you are interested in adding your program(s), email: fema-emi-collegelist@fema.dhs.gov

30
Years of service since 1994

More than 290
accredited Higher Education institutions

More than 800
Emergency Management and related College List programs

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

(training.fema.gov/hiedu/specialinterest/sig.aspx)

SIGs support the exchange of knowledge in specific areas and applications of Emergency Management Higher Education. **The FEMA Higher Education Program does not endorse or manage these groups but encourages their formation around common areas of interest.**

Anyone interested in joining a SIG should reach out to the associated lead(s) on the website above.

Higher Education Symposium

(training.fema.gov/hiedu/educonference24.aspx)

The FEMA Higher Education Symposium brings together a diverse assembly of up to 300 participants, representing a broad spectrum of private and public academic institutions, Federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, Emergency Management scholars, and practitioners. This gathering serves as a platform to explore strategies for building, engaging, and amplifying the efforts of the Emergency Management academic community. Notably, the Symposium consistently earns outstanding reviews in annual evaluations, reflecting its significant impact and value.

FEMA Higher Education Team

Patrick Cowhey
Director, National Training and Education Division

Mr. Cowhey is an outcome-driven leader with more than 30 years of experience in Emergency Management. He currently serves as Director of FEMA's National Training and Education Division, responsible for programs focused on building capabilities for first responders, Emergency Managers, local leaders, and others to help increase community resilience throughout the Nation. Prior to joining FEMA, he served on active duty with the U.S. Air Force for more than 21 years in stateside and overseas locations as a Disaster Preparedness Specialist, WMD Technician, and Emergency Manager.

Jay Wilkes
**Branch Chief, National Training and Education System**

Mr. Wilkes serves as the Branch Chief for the National Training and Education Division's National Training and Education System's team. Having joined FEMA in July 2023, he previously served for 12 years with the United States Agency for International Development's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance, ensuring that timely, needs-based humanitarian assistance was provided throughout East and Central Africa, the Middle East, and Eastern Europe. He also worked as a disaster manager for local and national United Way networks and as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Mongolia and El Salvador. He earned his B.A. from Pepperdine University and his M.A. from Brandeis University.

Christine Spangler
FEMA Higher Education Program Manager

Ms. Spangler brings a wealth of expertise to her role as the FEMA Higher Education Program Manager within the National Training and Education Division. With a focus on fostering collaborative partnerships, she spearheads initiatives to propel the field of Emergency Management and related academics through innovative practices and multidisciplinary research. She has been integral in cultivating a culture of ongoing learning and advancement within FEMA since 2013. In addition to her tenure at FEMA, her experience includes serving as an accreditation evaluator for IACET, an analyst with the Army Corps of Engineers, and managing diverse graduate degree and training programs for more than 15 years at The Johns Hopkins University, where she earned her master's degree.
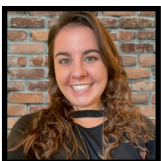
Rebecca Burns
FEMA Higher Education Contract Support

Ms. Burns has been an indispensable asset to the Higher Education Program since 2019, offering invaluable support in planning, coordinating, and executing Symposiums. Her role as an innovative and detail-oriented graphic designer brings a results-oriented approach to her work, coupled with a knack for creative storytelling through data visualization. Specializing in crafting marketing outreach materials and graphics that adhere to brand guidelines and standards, she consistently delivers exceptional results. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts with a Concentration in Graphic Design from Towson University in 2019.

Contact the Higher Education Team

fema-hied@fema.dhs.gov

(training.fema.gov/hiedu/)

Plenary Speakers

Day 1 (in order of appearance)

Chief Tonya Hoover
**Deputy Administrator, U.S. Fire Administration**

Chief Hoover is currently serving in the role of Deputy Fire Administrator at the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA). As the senior career Federal fire official, she is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the USFA. This includes the annual training of more than 100,000 first responders at and through the National Fire Academy (NFA); the National Fire Incident Reporting System, which documents and analyzes 27 million fire department emergency responses a year; the USFA's Fire Prevention, Public Information, and Public Education programs; and the 26 campus buildings and the grounds of the historic National Emergency Training Center (NETC) in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Her full bio is available at: fema.gov/profile/tonya-hoover.

Justin Kates
IAEM President

Mr. Kates was elected by peers from across the United States to serve as the 2nd Vice President of IAEM and now serves as 1st Vice President, President, and Immediate Past President in succession until 2025. He is also the Senior Business Continuity Advisor at Wawa, Inc., overseeing the development of a new business continuity program across several states and Washington, DC. Prior to joining Wawa, he spent many years in government, including roles as the Director of Emergency Management and Communications in Somerville, MA, and Director of Emergency Management in Nashua, NH. He is a Certified Emergency Manager and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Emergency Management and Public Administration from the University of Delaware, and a Master of Arts in Security Studies from the Naval Postgraduate School.
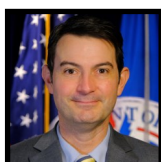
Rob Long
Director, Office of the National Advisory Council

Mr. Long is the Director of the Office of the National Advisory Council (NAC), a group of 40 SLTT experts with diverse perspectives who advise the FEMA Administrator on all aspects of Emergency Management. Prior to his 5 years with NAC, he was lead methodologist for Grant Program's Risk Analysis and Strategic Initiatives. Prior to Federal service, he held management, advisory, and consulting roles in the agriculture, community resilience, energy, and corporate sectors. He holds a Master of Geography, a Juris Doctorate, and recently completed the Center for Homeland Defense and Security's Executive Leaders Program at the Naval Postgraduate School.
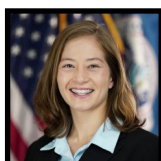
Sara Andresen
Deputy Director, Office of the National Advisory Council

Ms. Andresen is the Deputy Director of the Office of the National Advisory Council (NAC), a council of 40 SLTT experts with diverse perspectives who advise the FEMA Administrator on all aspects of Emergency Management. Previous to her position with the Office of the National Advisory Council, she worked in the National Integration Center and the Office of Resilience Strategy at FEMA with a focus on analysis of planning gaps and best practices for SLTT partners. Prior to joining FEMA, she worked as the Communications Coordinator for a non-profit organization in New York City. She is a Boren Scholar and studied Political Science and International Relations during her undergraduate studies at UMass Amherst.

Jacquelin Orban
Fellows Team Lead, Office of the National Advisory Council

Ms. Orban is Fellows Team Lead in the Office of the National Advisory Council (NAC), FEMA. She joined FEMA through the University of Maryland (UMD) Federal Fellows Program, which pairs motivated students with meaningful Federal internship opportunities. At UMD, she was a teaching assistant for five consecutive semesters in courses related to public policy research methods, and she conducted research on segregation in the lived environment. Upon graduation in May 2024, she concluded her term as the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Coordinator for the School of Public Policy. She looks forward to pursuing a career in Emergency Management.

Plenary Speakers

Day 1 (in order of appearance)
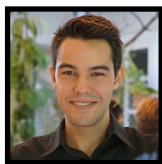
Noah Gibbs
Management and Program Analyst, FEMA National Exercise Division

Mr. Gibbs joined the FEMA National Exercise Division (NED) as a Presidential Management Fellow in 2021. Since joining NED, he has led the Division's strategic communication portfolio. This portfolio ensures that exercise practitioners across the United States have the information and resources they need to run successful exercise programs. He has deployed as a FEMA intergovernmental Affairs Specialist during Hurricane Ian, cultivated a specialty in climate adaptation, and served for 6 months as an interagency officer for the President's Emergency Plan for Adaptation and Resilience. PREPARE is a whole-of-government effort that brings together the diplomatic, development, and technical expertise of the United States to help more than half a billion people in developing countries adapt to and manage the impacts of climate change by 2030.

Deanne Criswell
FEMA Administrator

Ms. Criswell was unanimously confirmed by the Senate as the 12th Administrator of FEMA and is the first woman confirmed to serve as the Administrator, where she leads the Nation's efforts in helping people before, during, and after disasters. She brings with her an extensive career in public service, with serving 30 years at all levels of government. Her full bio is available at: www.fema.gov/profile/deanne-criswell

Dr. Jeff Stern
Superintendent, Emergency Management Institute, FEMA Resilience

Dr. Stern is the Superintendent of the Emergency Management Institute (EMI) in Emmitsburg, Maryland. He previously led the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, where he was responsible for disaster and Homeland Security (HS) preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery efforts across the Commonwealth. He led Virginia through nearly 50 emergency declarations more than 6 years and deployed Virginia's first responders to disasters across the United States. He also chaired the Virginia 911 Board and oversaw all the Commonwealth's Homeland Security and Emergency Management Grant programs. His full bio is available at: www.fema.gov/profile/jeffrey-d-stern-phd
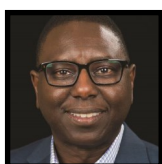
Greg Simmons
Program Manager, MSI and Workforce Development Programs

Mr. Simmons holds the position of Program Manager for Minority Serving Institutions and Workforce Development at the DHS Science and Technology Directorate, Office of University Programs. He manages MSI research and internship programs for faculty and students. Prior, he was the Deputy Director for the DHS Office of Test and Evaluation, focusing on the evaluation of DHS Maritime Acquisitions. Before joining the Federal service, he had a distinguished tenure as a naval officer, where he contributed to weapon systems development and their test and evaluation. Hailing from Atlanta, Georgia, he completed his B.S. in Engineering and Political Science from the U.S. Naval Academy. He furthered his education with an M.A. in Organizational Management from The George Washington University and obtained an Executive Certificate in Public Leadership from the Harvard Kennedy School in 2022.

Marcus Coleman
Director, DHS Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships

Mr. Coleman currently serves as the Director of the DHS Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships (DHS Partnerships Center), one of several centers of the White House Office of Faith-Based & Neighborhood Partnerships. Originally from Tucson, Arizona, he has served at the intersection of building public private partnerships with faith-based and non-profit organizations for more than 15 years. His full bio is available at: www.fema.gov/profile/marcus-t-coleman-jr.

Plenary Speakers

Day 1 (in order of appearance)

Mark Strohoefer
FEMA Region 2

Mr. Strohoefer joined FEMA during Superstorm Sandy in 2013. As the Community Recovery Assistance Team Lead, he worked to build strong local and regional capacity, while offering effective recovery coordination, guidance, and support in a number of New Jersey Communities. As the Recovery Coordination Group Supervisor for the Federal Disaster Recovery Coordination Resource Outreach Team, he was instrumental in developing the concept of a partnership between recovery coordination and the New Jersey academic community. In 2016, he took over the FEMA Region 2 Intern Program and has grown the Program from 9 students annually to close to 40 every year. He then developed the FEMA Region 2 Higher-ED Program, which consisted of The Higher-Ed Collaborative, The Higher-Ed Roundtable Series, The Higher-Ed Newsletter, and Higher-Ed Webinars.

Danielle Cortes-DeVito, EMT-P
FEMA Region 5

Ms. Cortes-DeVito serves as the Continuous Improvement Advisor for FEMA Region 5's COVID-19 Regional Response. Her responsibilities include lessons learned and best practices, for disasters, training, exercises, and National Special Security Events in support of the Region's 6 states, along with 34 federally recognized tribal nations. She began her career in emergency medical services in the private ambulance industry. She joined the Chicago Fire Department and became the first paramedic spokesperson for the American Heart Association and was featured in the "Hands of Time" documentary. She holds a paramedic license in the State of Illinois, an Associate's in Emergency Medical Services, and a B.S. in Public Policy and Public Safety with a concentration in Emergency Management and Homeland Security.

Dr. Jay Van Der Werff
FEMA Region 7

Dr. Van Der Werff joined FEMA Region 7 in the fall of 2019 as the National Preparedness Division Director and Federal Preparedness Coordinator located in Kansas City, Missouri. He is a retired Marine with more than 30 years of active duty and Federal service. Following his military retirement, he spent time with Garmin, International before re-entering government service with the USDA's Farm Service Agency as the Deputy Director and Acting Director for Emergency Preparedness. He left FSA to lead Army University's faculty development program for the Army Learning Enterprise across 27 schools and more than 25,000 military and civilian faculty. He received his Ph.D. in Adult and Continuing Education from Kansas State University.

Daniel Green
FEMA Region 8

Mr. Green currently serves as an analyst and the dedicated Higher Education liaison for FEMA Region 8. He works on building a more resilient and prepared American West while also coordinating with and supporting researchers, academics, and students across Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming, and the 29 federally recognized tribes in his Region. He holds a Masters in International Relations and Political Economy from the University of Denver, and is pursuing a Masters in National Security Studies at the Naval Postgraduate School. He previously worked in diplomatic missions for the American, Canadian, and Norwegian governments. He currently lives in Denver with his two dogs, Yuki and Margot.
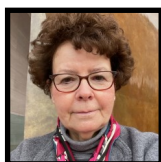
Sally Ziolkowski
FEMA Region 9

Ms. Ziolkowski serves as the Deputy Federal Preparedness Coordinator, National Preparedness Division for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency in Region 9, with an area of responsibility that includes Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Marianas Islands. In this role, she supports the Division in the implementation of a range of preparedness and resilience programs, including Continuity of Operations Program, Training and Exercises, Radiological Emergency Preparedness Program, Continuous Improvement Program, Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment, Individual and Community Preparedness, Higher Education Coordination, and Tribal Outreach.

Plenary Speakers

Day 1 (in order of appearance)

Dr. Laura Phipps
University of Texas at Arlington

Dr. Phipps is a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Public Health Program at the University of Texas at Arlington. Her professional interests center on international health and emergency preparedness, and she is always looking for opportunities for students to travel abroad and gain exposure to health leadership and practice in international settings. She is also interested in the resilience of at-risk communities and ethical issues associated with disaster and data management. She earned a B.S. in Microbiology from Texas A&M University and an M.P.H. and DrPH from UNTHSC. She co-leads the FEMA Higher Education International SIG.

Dr. Ray Chang
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

Dr. Chang is an Associate Professor in the Department of Security and Emergency Services at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University - Worldwide Campus. He is interested in bridging the gaps between practitioners and researchers, and the Emergency Management systems between the United States and other countries. As a result, he co-leads the FEMA Higher Education Program Annual Symposium organizing team and two SIGs in the FEMA Higher Education Program to further discuss those issues relevant to international Emergency Management, theory, and research.

Katie Curiel
FEMA Readiness Division

Ms. Curiel serves as a Readiness Training Program Analyst within FEMA's Resilience, where she collaborates on delivering training programs and resources to support Resilience's 3,000+ employees in being ready to serve the Nation before, during, and after disasters. She is passionate about advancing the field of Emergency Management utilizing her two decades of experience in international education and global workforce development prior to FEMA, where she worked with hundreds of higher education professionals in more than 70 countries. She will present the takeaways from her recent presentation at the NAFSA Association of International Educators Annual Conference (www.nafsa.org/conferences/nafsa-2024-annual-conference-expo), "Resilience and Inclusion in Emergencies for International Students, Scholars, and Dependents".

Day 2 (in order of appearance)
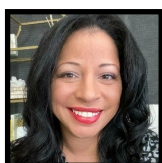
Vania Lockett
Associate Director, DHS Office of Partnership and Engagement

Ms. Lockett serves in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Partnership and Engagement, as an Associate Director of Non-governmental Organizations Engagement/Academic Engagement. In this role, she champions DHS efforts to create and sustain academic partnerships across public and private sectors – with keen expertise in echoing diversity across faith, race, gender, age, and geographical landscapes. She began her Federal career with DHS in 2006 and has filled various leadership roles over her 17+ year career, to include advocating for implementation of privacy protections within several DHS programs, such as background check, vetting, and screening; cybersecurity and infrastructure protection; and information, risk, and disclosure.

Plenary Speakers

Day 2 (in order of appearance)

Dr. DeeDee Bennett-Gayle
University at Albany, State University of New York
Dr. Bennett-Gayle is an Associate Professor in the College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security, and Cybersecurity at the University at Albany, State University of New York. She is the Director of the Extreme Events, Social Equity, and Technology lab within her college. In 2023, she was selected as one of the Ocean Decade Champions by the National Science Foundation and the Kaleta A. Doolin Foundation for research on marginalized populations. She has more than 60 publications and she has presented at several conferences related to Emergency Management, disability, wireless technology, and future studies. She received her Ph.D. from Oklahoma State University in Fire and Emergency Management and has a unique academic background having received both her M.S. in Public Policy and B.S. in Electrical Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology.
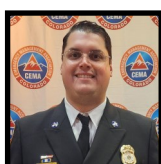
Arthur Simental, M.S., CEM
**University of Colorado, Colorado Springs/Simental Industries SHIELD Initiative**
Mr. Simental is the Director of Emergency Management for the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, and he leads the Division of Emergency and Safety Services. He is concurrently an Adjunct Instructor for Colorado Technical University, a Lecturer for UCCS, and the Founder of Simental Industries Ltd., a HSEM Consulting and Disaster Resilience Research Firm. He has more than 15 years of service in HSEM and Emergency Services. He has served across all levels of government, and in the private and non-profit sectors in HSEM, healthcare and public health emergency preparedness, space and defense, security, education, and critical infrastructure. He is also a homeland security researcher, published author, and Certified Emergency Manager. He earned an M.S. in Homeland Security, Emergency Management and Public Health from CTU, and is presently a second-year doctoral student.

Dr. Tina Bynum, D.M., M.S.
Pikes Peak State College/Simental Industries SHIELD Initiative
Dr. Bynum is the Associate Dean of Law, Public Safety, and Social Sciences with Pikes Peak State College and an Associate Editor with the Journal of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. She also serves as an Emergency Management program assessor with the Emergency Management Accreditation Program. She is the former University Program Director for the College of Security Studies at Colorado Technical University. She presently serves on the editorial review board of the Journal for Homeland Security Education and is a member of the International Society for Preparedness, Resilience, and Security. She has published several works. She graduated from Colorado Technical University with a Doctor of Management – Homeland Security and from the University of Colorado with an M.P.A. and B.A. magna cum laude with High Distinction in Psychology.
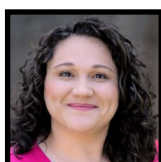
Dr. Dara Marin Prais
Simental Industries SHIELD Initiative
Dr. Marin Prais is a dedicated professional with a passion for engaging in and delivering actionable research for entities and practitioners. As a woman of color, she is committed to engaging in meaningful research projects to support diverse communities. As a result, she has cultivated a strong educational background that forms the foundation of her expertise. She holds a Ph.D. from the University of Colorado, Denver, specializing in Research, Evaluation, and Assessment. Prior, she earned a Master's in Educational Psychology, focusing on Assessment, from the University of Colorado, Denver, and a B.S. in General and Special Education from Northern Arizona University. Her skills include utilizing qualitative and quantitative methods, mixed methodology, the analysis of large datasets and multilevel modeling, and conducting program evaluations.

Plenary Speakers

Day 2 (in order of appearance)

Erin Zaideman, M.A.

University of Colorado Denver/Simental Industries SHIELD Initiative

As an applied researcher, Ms. Zaideman is deeply committed to understanding and supporting the communities she serves. Her approach involves education, collaboration, respect, and the application of rigorous research and evaluation frameworks. Her passion lies in ensuring that individuals and communities have equal and equitable opportunities within organizational systems. Over the past 5 years, she has collaborated with various organizations across education, scientific, cultural, and human service sectors tackling organizational effectiveness. Her work spans survey methods, evaluation, system dynamics exploration, and quantitative analysis. Her hunger for knowledge extends to disaster research. She aims to amplify the voices of those who are often overlooked, ensuring their representation and value in risk management efforts.
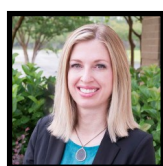
Dr. Misti Kill
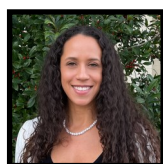
Columbia Southern University

Dr. Kill serves as the Senior Vice Provost of Academic Affairs at Columbia Southern University. She has been directly involved with distance education since 2008, engaging in both faculty and academic administrative roles. In addition to her work in higher education, she has been active in the public safety field, focusing on mitigation efforts, serving on the International Association of Emergency Managers committees, and being appointed to the FEMA National Advisory Council, serving a 3-year term through 2025. She holds a Ph.D. in Emergency Management from North Dakota State University.

Dr. Justin Heim

Columbia Southern University

Dr. Heim started in the fire service in 1999 in St. Joseph County, Indiana. He worked for the Clay Fire Territory prior to becoming a career fire chief in the Milwaukee metropolitan area in 2008. Due to a line-of-duty motor vehicle crash in 2014, he retired on duty disability. He currently works as the Lead Faculty of Fire Science and Fire Administration at Columbia Southern University. He has a Ph.D. in Public Administration from Northcentral University and is a 2011 graduate of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program.

Dr. Tamara Mouras

Columbia Southern University

Dr. Mouras serves as the Dean of the College of Safety and Emergency Services at Columbia Southern University. She is a U.S. Navy veteran and values the spirit of military services. Her teaching and research background expands more than 15 years of higher education instruction in Domestic Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Criminal Justice. She served on numerous dissertations committees as well as the Institutional Review Board. She earned her B.S. in Criminal Justice from Old Dominion University and M.S. in Human Services in Criminal Justice. She holds a Ph.D. in Public Service Leadership in Criminal Justice from Capella University.

Dr. Mary Lannon

Columbia Southern University

Dr. Lannon is an Emergency Management professional with 15 years of experience in police and fire emergency communications. She is a part-time faculty member at Columbia Southern University and has worked for more than a decade as a police communications supervisor for a major police department. She has been teaching in higher education since 2013 in various Emergency Management, Homeland Security, Criminal Justice, and Business programs at the undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral levels. She has considerable experience teaching research methods across social science disciplines, in addition to mentoring students conducting original research. In addition, she has worked for institutional review boards in both academic settings and private industry.

Plenary Speakers

Day 3 (in order of appearance)

Monica Sanders, J.D.
The Undivide Project

Ms. Sanders founded The Undivide Project (theundivideproject.org), an organization that champions legal and policy changes to address the convergence of digital and climate equity. She is an Adjunct Professor of Law at Georgetown University, specializing in Law, Policy, and Practice in Disasters and Complex Emergencies. She isan Affiliated Scholar with Georgetown's Earth Commons, a Federation of American Scientists Policy Entrepreneur, and the Social Innovator in Residence at Grinnell College. As a practicing attorney, she served in all three branches of government and as Senior Legal Advisor for International Response and Programs at the American Red Cross. Her work has been featured in MIT Technology Review, Forbes, and Essence Magazine.

Juliette Jackson
The Undivide Project

Ms. Jackson serves as a Legal Fellow with the Undivide Project, focused on doing legal research and analysis for the Ten States Project. She grew up in Northern California and is an enrolled member of the Klamath Tribes. She received her B.A. in Political Science; Public Law from the University of California, a J.D. from American University, Washington College of Law, and recently completed her Master of Laws (LLM) in Environmental and Energy Law, focused on Indigenous Rights at The George Washington University Law School. Presently she works at Patterson EarnHeart Real Bird & Wilson LLP, Native Law Group, a firm focused exclusively on Federal Indian Law and Tribal Law matters. Over the course of her career, she has worked on public health policy matters and tribal environmental justice issues at various non-profit organizations and government agencies.
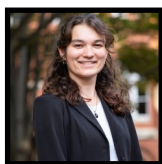
Mariska Bogaard
Georgetown University

Ms. Bogaard is a senior at Georgetown University, pursuing majors in Sociology and Government and a minor in Environmental Studies. She was born in the Netherlands and attended high school in Phoenix, Arizona. She is a student researcher on the Ten States Project, focusing on interviews with Emergency Managers and Community Organizations. Her research interests further include climate change communication, environmental justice, and social media. Her senior thesis in sociology is focused on why climate change academics communicate on Twitter in the hopes of understanding how Twitter could be used as a more effective way to communicate about climate change.

Helene Gusman
Johns Hopkins University

Ms. Gusman is a recent graduate of Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies, earning an M.A. in International Affairs in May 2023, specializing in Russian and sub-Saharan African foreign policy. For her thesis, she developed a comprehensive framework for identifying at-risk countries, focusing on the Wagner Group's role in sub-Saharan Africa. Prior, she graduated from Middlebury College with a B.A. in International and Global Studies, specializing in Russia and Eastern Europe. She has lived in several countries and speaks varying degrees of several languages. She has accepted a traineeship with NATO SHAPE in Belgium.

Plenary Speakers

Day 3 (in order of appearance)

Dr. Joshua DeVincenzo
National Center for Disaster for Disaster Preparedness, Columbia University

Dr. DeVincenzo is the Assistant Director of Education and Training and a Lecturer at the National Center for Disaster Preparedness at Columbia University. His research interests examine the relationship between climate change and mental models. His expertise lies in developing lifelong learning experiences on disaster preparedness, mitigation, recovery, and resilience. He has created national-scale curricula in the United States on disaster financial literacy, economic impact analysis, and community partnerships. He aims to provide accessible and quality educational programming on a large scale, focusing on climate change and equity. He holds a Master's in Education Policy, Organization, and Leadership from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a doctorate in education from Columbia University.

Abigail Meola
National Center for Disaster for Disaster Preparedness, Columbia University

Ms. Meola is a Project Coordinator at the National Center for Disaster Preparedness, where she supports the development of FEMA training courses on climate science and equity. Prior, she worked on creating and adapting STEM curricula for the Columbia Climate School. She also received an M.A. in Climate and Society at Columbia, where she focused her studies on climate adaptation, and she partnered with the Kenya Red Cross Society to enhance the use of climate information for regional decision-making. She leverages data and education expertise from work in private, non-profit, and academic settings to create content that is engaging and accessible.

Dr. Paula Buchanan, M.B.A., M.P.H., CPH
Northern Arizona University

Dr. Buchanan is a disaster scientist and Emergency Management researcher. Her work lies at the intersection of public health, education, risk communication, and outreach messaging. She has professional experience in communications, university-level instruction, business continuity, and project management. A central question of her research is the extent to which socio-technical systems function as a communication channel to provide populations with accurate information to mitigate public health impacts associated with, or exacerbated by, disasters. She is also passionate about using social media, information technology, and data visualization tools to effectively communicate with targeted audiences.

Day 2 Breakout Presentations

Learning from the Marshall Fire to Inform Emergency Management and Resilience-Building (Traditional)

The Marshall Fire Recovery and Resilience Working Group has collected perishable mixed methods data to understand policy processes and decisions as well as individual recovery trajectories after Colorado's most destructive wildfire. Presenters will share survey results and recommendations (co-developed with local governments and community partners) to support equitable recovery and climate resilience policy. Presenters will also engage audience members in an exercise focused on applying an equity and resilience lens to an actual building code implementation decision post-disaster.

Hannah Walters, Colorado School of Public Health

Ms. Walters is a Doctor of Public Health candidate at the Colorado School of Public Health. Her dissertation research focuses on applying analytical methods to identify patterns of environmental injustice and health inequities in Colorado, including in areas of oil and gas development and in communities recovering from natural disasters. She previously worked as an epidemiologist at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, focusing on chronic disease prevention program evaluation. She earned her Master in Public Health from Boston University in 2019 with a focus in Environmental Hazard Assessment.

Dr. Andrew Rumbach, Urban Institute

Dr. Rumbach is a Senior Fellow in the Metropolitan Housing and Community Policy Center at the Urban Institute. He is a mixed-methods researcher and community planning practitioner who studies household and community risk and resilience to natural hazards and the impacts of climate change. At the Urban Institute, he helps lead an interdisciplinary group of researchers who provide data and evidence to help policy-makers and decision-makers to build safer and more equitable cities, towns, and communities. He has published dozens of peer-reviewed articles, reports, and planning documents and sits on the editorial boards of the *Journal of the American Planning Association* and the *Journal of Planning Literature*. He earned a B.A. in Political Science from Reed College and a Ph.D. and M.R.P. in City and Regional Planning from Cornell University.

A Team Approach to Teaching and Learning: SQUIRREL (Workshop)

The SQUIRREL method introduces an adaptive model which combines the rigor of team learning with the dynamic nature of real-world Emergency Management scenarios. Discover the benefits of a team-oriented environment and gain insights into how instructors can effectively guide students through scenarios, while encouraging critical thinking and practical application.

Dr. Jamie Stacy, Arkansas Tech University

Dr. Stacy is an Associate Professor of Emergency Management and Homeland Security at Arkansas Tech University. She received her Ph.D. in Leadership with an emphasis in Higher Education Administration from the University of Central Arkansas. She has taught both online and face-to-face classes in EMHS since 2008. Her research focuses on integrative leadership in Higher Education and EMHS, crisis and risk communications, student veteran reintegration, and hazards.

Dr. Beth Gray, J.D., M.B.A., Arkansas Tech University

Dr. Gray is a Professor of Emergency Management and Homeland Security at Arkansas Tech University. She earned her concurrent M.B.A. and J.D. from University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Her research interests include Enneagram, Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, Team-Based Learning in Emergency Management courses, the relationship between law and doctrine in Emergency Management; Emergency Management students' Gallup CliftonStrengths. She has been a university professor for 19 years.

Dr. Bethany Swindell, D.B.A., Arkansas Tech University

Dr. Swindell is an Assistant Professor of Emergency Management and Homeland Security at Arkansas Tech University. Prior to teaching, she had a career in Safety and Emergency Management, where she was the ESF-1 lead for the State. She received her Doctorate in Public Policy/Homeland Security from North Central University. Her research focuses on small unmanned aerial systems, organizational resilience, CERT, and team learning in Emergency Management.

Day 2 Breakout Presentations

Learning Through Functional Exercises: Program, Design, and Implementation Considerations (Other)

Linking the bridge between the academic applications and the practitioner experience is paramount to the success of the development of future Emergency Management leaders. Specifically, functional exercises serve as an important learning experience for the advancement of critical thinking and ethical decision making. We present the most recent evolution of a partnership that includes multiple levels of decision making, exercise design, and studying learning in action for an experiential learning experience.

Dr. Claire Connolly Knox, University of Central Florida

Dr. Connolly Knox is a Professor in the School of Public Administration at the University of Central Florida and Program Director of the Master of Emergency and Crisis Management. She is an expert in environmental vulnerability, coastal resilience, and social equity. Her co-edited book, Cultural Competency for Emergency and Crisis Management, won 2021 Book of the Year Award from ASPA's Section on Democracy and Social Justice. She has obtained $5 million in grants and serves as Associate Editor of *Natural Hazards Review* and *Journal of Homeland Security and Emergency Management*. She has received multiple awards including the 2022 Kay C. Goss for Innovation in Emergency Management Award at FEMA's Higher Education Symposium.

Mohammad Newaz Sharif, University of Central Florida

Mr. Newaz Sharif is a first-year doctoral student in the School of Public Administration at the University of Central Florida, with a prior academic background in disaster management and public policy. Before diving into academia, he served humanitarian organizations such as Red Cross, CARE, and the United Nations, honing his skills in strategic planning, international development, and emergency response. His research interests are centered on community resilience, climate change adaptation, and disaster risk reduction, aiming to contribute valuable insights to global efforts toward sustainable development.

Jennifer Classen, M.E.T., Pennsylvania State University

Ms. Classen is a doctoral candidate in the Learning, Design, and Technology Program and minoring in Educational Leadership at Pennsylvania State University, College of Education. Before going to Penn State, she taught high school math and computer science and was a district-wide secondary instructional technology coach. She has a research interest in studying learning in school safety Emergency Management. Specifically, she brings a sociocultural approach to educational leadership to study how leaders and educators conceptually, affectively, and relationally make sense of crises. She has a Bachelor's in Mathematics from Montana State University and a Master's in Educational Technology from Boise State University.

Steven Lerner, CEM, FPEM, NEMEA, Seminole County Government

Mr. Lerner is a division manager in the Seminole County's Office of Emergency Management. Before this role, he held other positions in the Division focused on managing state and Federal grants and conducting extensive mitigation work for the County. He has a Bachelor's in Public Administration with a minor in Emergency Management and a Master's in Public Safety and Service Leadership from Drury University. He has worked on several notable incidents in Central Florida including Hurricanes Matthew and Irma and the Pulse Night Club attack. More recently, he graduated from the National Emergency Management Executive Academy at FEMA's Emergency Management Institute.

Integrating GIS Training in Emergency Management Higher Education Programs (Traditional)

Explore best practices and key challenges for integrating Geographic Information Systems in emergency and disaster management education. Participants will learn and share methods to actively engage students with geospatial technologies like GIS to better prepare future Emergency Management professionals for practical applications in their prospective careers.

Dr. Sarah Jackson, Western Carolina University

Dr. Jackson is an Assistant Professor of Emergency and Disaster Management at WCU. She teaches undergraduate courses on risk and vulnerability assessments, disaster mitigation, natural hazard science, environmental justice, and Geographic Information Systems. Her scholarship as a human-environmental geographer focuses on geospatial approaches to social vulnerability, risk perceptions, and community capacities to withstand environmental hazards. Originally from Southwestern Illinois, she worked as a Geospatial Analyst in the St. Louis area and as a Geography Instructor at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. While earning her Ph.D. at the University of South Carolina, she was a Research Associate at the Hazards Vulnerability and Resilience Institute.

Day 2 Breakout Presentations

Emergency Management Plan Evaluation Using Prepared4ALL in a Classroom Setting (Traditional)

Emergency Preparedness Plans at universities should address people with disabilities. Using the Prepared4All methodology, graduate students at a historically black college in the Homeland Security Masters Program identified critical gaps in the school's Emergency Plan and made suggestions that integrated ethical and equity standards. The gap analysis and initial data set were used to test a technology platform and application developed by UDC faculty and students under a grant from DHS. The platform was developed to model scenario-based probability distributions of the impact of emergencies on individuals with disabilities or other identified at-risk sub-populations at the hyper-local level.

Dr. Andrea Adams, J.D., M.B.A., University of the District of Columbia
Dr. Adams is a licensed attorney in several states in the area of employment/labor law and has more than 25 years of experience in business. She is an Assistant Professor in Ethics in the Criminal Justice Bachelor/ Homeland Security Master's Program, a member of the FEMA Higher Education Ethics SIG, and has authored a FEMA Course Module and a recent Article: *Beyond Social Media Push Strategies: Incorporating Citizen-developed Social Media Pull Tactics to Supplement Disaster Communication and Response (Adams, 2024).*

Anthony Mazza, J.D., M.B.A., M.A., University of the District of Columbia
Mr. Mazza is an Assistant Professor and a subject matter expert in business process design and IT operations and is CISA-certified to perform cyber audits. He currently advises the U.S. Department of Treasury and a Smart City venture sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. A strong strategic and innovative thinker, he has managed major business process and technology projects for Fortune 100 firms and Government entities. He is a former U.S. Army Infantry Officer and a cyber and technical operations specialist. He is a current Ph.D. candidate, an accomplished business design architect, a patent holder, and the owner of eight software innovations.

Venise Thompson, University of the District of Columbia
Ms. Thompson is a dedicated graduate student in a Master's Program in Homeland Security, with an Emergency Management focus. She is driven by her passion for helping communities prepare for and respond to disasters. With a strong academic background and practical experience, she is eager to contribute her skills and knowledge to making the world more resilient.

Sue Wolf-Fordham, J.D., M.P.A., Association of University Centers on Disabilities
Ms. Wolf-Fordham is a Consultant at the Association of University Centers on Disabilities, a national non-profit network of interdisciplinary university research, training, and community service centers focused on disability, and Adjunct Faculty-Public Health, at Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, where she teaches public health law. She has more than 30 years of experience in the disability field, including advocacy, research, policy and program development and implementation, and 15 years of experience related to whole community, disability-inclusive emergency planning, and response.

Maximizing Learning with GenAI Case Studies: An Instructor Guide (Workshop)

With a focus on the participant's own curriculum, they will 1) explore transformative ways to use case studies to synthesize multiple units and even entire courses, 2) learn four tactics to create engaging activities and assessments, and 3) develop the skills to craft custom case studies with generative AI tools.

Joseph Rafter, Mid-Atlantic Center for Emergency Management & Public Safety at Frederick Community College
Mr. Rafter is committed to supporting instructors in their mission to provide student-centered learning experiences for their students. He is an Instructional and Technical Designer at the Mid-Atlantic Center for Emergency Management & Public Safety (MACEM&PS) at Frederick Community College in Maryland. His responsibilities include designing courses for Federal and state grant partners and delivering college-wide professional development. He also instructs education courses for K-12 teachers as an adjunct professor. In his own academic studies, he is researching the impacts of generative AI on writing instruction at the high school level.

Kim Pratt, Montgomery County Police
Ms. Pratt is a Detective with the Montgomery County Police, Financial Crimes Section, and has been employed as a police officer since 2005. She was assigned to the Financial Crimes Section in 2013 and investigates numerous financial fraud-related cases, routinely presents on numerous fraud-related topics for local and regional organizations, and has a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice and a Master's degree in management, specializing in Emergency Management. She teaches multiple Criminal Justice and Emergency Management classes for several colleges and is employed as an adjunct professor by Frederick Community College.

Day 2 Breakout Presentations

Climate Risk and Resilience (ClimRR) Portal: Using Future Forecasted Climate Data (Traditional)

The Climate Risk and Resilience Portal (ClimRR) provides forecasted dynamically downscaled climate data for the United States. This session will present the features and functionality of ClimRR Portal and how ClimRR can support research on the impacts and resilience to climate change.

Carmella Burdi, Argonne National Laboratory

Ms. Burdi is the Section Manager for GIS and Data Analytics in the Decision and Infrastructure Sciences Division at Argonne National Laboratory. Her background in Geospatial Systems and Emergency Management allows her to develop geographic decision-making tools for sponsors such as FEMA and other agencies within DHS. She currently provides geospatial analysis, creates geospatial toolsets, and provides cartographic support to a variety of sponsors. She is a certified GISP, as well as an adjunct instructor at Elmhurst College. She holds an M.S. in Geographic Information Sciences.

Resilience Analysis and Planning Tool (RAPT): Usage in Collegiate Emergency Management Courses (Traditional)

The Resilience Analysis and Planning Tool gives Emergency Managers access to powerful data and GIS mapping that helps them better understand their community. This session provides lesson plans for faculty and discusses how this tool can be incorporated into Emergency Management Higher Education programs.

Dr. John Carr, Argonne National Laboratory

Dr. Carr is an Emergency Management Analyst at Argonne National Laboratory. At Argonne, he supports a range of FEMA initiatives including technical assistance workshops and research products for a variety of audiences. He has a Doctorate of Science in Emergency Management from Jacksonville State University, and a Master's Degree in Emergency Management from North Dakota State University. His research focuses on Emergency Management in higher education, rural Emergency Management systems, and Emergency Management in popular culture.

Required Internships in Emergency Management Higher Education: Student Reflections and Career Progressions (Traditional)

The research utilizes components of the Next Generation Core Competencies to evaluate outcomes of internships. This research examined experiences through surveys and interviews with more than 60 alumni graduated between 1–22 years. This research sought to inform how internships contribute to the current and future Emergency Management workforce and the NGCCs.

Dr. Stacy Willett, University of Akron

Dr. Willett currently assisted in the creation of the third Emergency Management program in the United States, and first accredited. Prior to joining academics, she was an Environmental Health and Safety Specialist working with ISO, OSHA, and EPA compliance for an international company. She conducted firsthand research for Flight 93, the Alrosa nightclub shooting, and others. Her doctoral dissertation and expertise are in crisis leadership, training transfer, and gaps in systematic learning. She is Chair of the FEMA Higher Education Jobs and Internships SIG, and Co- Chair of the IAEM Higher Education Academician Caucus. She holds a Doctorate in Educational Leadership with a concentration in Sociology from The University of Akron, where she has been for 22 years.

Dr. Mark Landahl, CEM, City of Rockville, Maryland

Dr. Landahl currently serves as the Emergency Manager for the City of Rockville, Maryland. Prior to this position, he served as the Homeland Security Commander for the Frederick County, Maryland, Sheriff's Office. He serves as an adjunct professor in several programs and regularly publishes in the fields of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, including two co-authored books. Prior to his law enforcement and Emergency Management careers, he served as a public school history and government teacher and on a Congressional staff in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Day 2 Breakout Presentations

What We Get Wrong About "Resilience" (Traditional)

Examine the concept of resilience and its application to Emergency Management. By revisiting the metaphorical nature of resilience, the presenter will discuss the rhetoric behind common misconceptions arising from the application of the concept of resilience in Emergency Management. Additionally, the presenter will explore the idea that not all resilience is 'good' and highlight the differences between and the potential sources of 'bad resilience' and 'negative resilience' within communities.

Dr. Anthony Abruzzese, M.Ed., M.S., Boston University Healthcare Emergency Management Program (Retired)
Dr. Abruzzese worked in higher education for 40 years, holding positions as technical specialist, an administrator, teaching faculty, and instructional/curriculum designer. He developed and taught courses in computer literacy, communications design, and risk/crisis communications. He holds a B.A. in Psychology, from the University Mass/Boston, a M.Ed. in Communications/Media, and a M.S. in Communications Management both from Fitchburg State University, and a doctorate in Civil Security Leadership, Management and Policy from New Jersey City University. He is currently retired and lives with his wife, Dianna, in Billerica, Massachusetts.

Building Resilient Communities: The Role of U.S. Land Grant Universities and Cooperative Extension (Traditional)

Discuss the mission and structure of the national system of land grant universities and the affiliated system of Cooperative Extension educators serving all U.S. counties. We will focus on the community development, aspects of this system, and the discussions that have been underway in FEMA Region 2 about the potential for a FEMA/Cornell Cooperative Extension partnership, including some examples of resilience work in flood-prone communities.
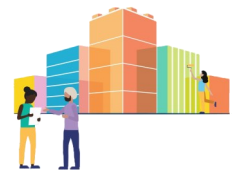
David Kay, Cornell University
Mr. Kay is the Extension faculty leader in Cornell's Global Development Department. Trained as an economist, he provides social science leadership in the areas of energy, land use, community development and regional economics. He focuses on the community implications of energy transitions and climate change (e.g., flood risk, utility scale solar), and on the relationships between the "local" and the "global." His research and outreach efforts are particularly concerned with building informed decision-making capacity in the context of community controversy. He currently chairs his city's Sustainability and Climate Justice Commission and the National Extension Climate Initiative.

How Cornell's "Hub" of Community Engagement is Supporting Community-Engaged Research (Traditional)

The Einhorn Center for Community Engagement aims to make community-engaged learning a hallmark of the Cornell experience, enabling students to lead positive change in the world and inspiring a legacy of engaged Cornellians.
As the hub of community engagement, the Center supports a university culture where students, faculty, staff, and partners work together to create stronger, more resilient communities.

Basil Safi, P.E., M.P.H., Cornell University
Mr. Safi is the Executive Director at Cornell University, Einhorn Center for Community Engagement. He is a first-generation American with 23 years of experience in the management, design, and implementation of public health, strategic communication, and community-engaged learning programs. He earned his B.S. in Civil Engineering from Virginia Tech and his M.P.H. in Global Environmental Health from Emory University. Prior to joining Cornell, he spent 10 years at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health on a range of international health programs to improve community outcomes. He is a registered Professional Engineer and former Environmental Public Health Leadership Fellow at the CDC's National Center for Environmental Health. He has worked in more than a dozen countries and four continents around the world.

JLP Prince, M.A., M.S., Einhorn Center for Community Engagement
Prince is the Co-Curricular Data Coordinator for the Einhorn Center for Community Engagement at Cornell University. They are also pursuing their Ph.D. in Fire and Emergency Management Administration at Oklahoma State University where their research focuses on the social vulnerabilities of college students to natural hazards and building disaster-resilient universities. In their free time, they enjoy reading, playing with their cats Boba T. and Swayze, and volunteering at geek conventions such as DragonCon and GalaxyCon Raleigh.

Day 2 Breakout Presentations

A Model for Emergency Management Bachelor's Degree Programs and Standards Alignment (Workshop)

Discover how to design or redesign a Bachelor's Degree in Emergency Management for the purpose of aligning with workforce needs. This approach focuses on applications geared toward preparing students at any stage in their Emergency Management career for field needs and standards and provides experiential learning to ensure development of Emergency Management skills, decision-making, and leadership, thereby making both the student and community more resilient.

David "Woody" Boyd, Pikes Peak State College

Mr. Boyd is a faculty member involved in curriculum development for the Emergency Services Administration program at Pikes Peak Community College in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He retired from the U.S. Air Force in 2015, concluding a 27-year career that included international and domestic service. His experience spans anti-terrorism, disaster management, major incident response, recovery operations, and emergency preparedness. He earned an M.S. in Operational Planning from the Air Command and Staff College and an M.Ed. in Organizational Leadership from Colorado State University.

Teresa Ward, Pikes Peak State College

Ms. Ward is the Director of the B.A.S. Emergency Service Administration program at Pikes Peak State College in Colorado Springs, Colorado. She is also a lead instructor for its leadership, policy, resilience, research, and capstone courses. Her higher education experience dates to 2011 as an adjunct instructor, curriculum developer, course developer, and program director. She retired from the U.S. Air Force in 2006 after 20 years of service in command and control, encompassing Emergency Management and Homeland Defense skills, where she spent her career in operations, writing policy and procedures, instructing, training, and evaluating within Air Mobility Command, NATO, Air Education and Training Command, NORAD, U.S. Space Command, U.S. Northern Command, and Air Force Space Command. She earned an M.B.A. and an M.S. in Homeland Security at Colorado Technical University.

Current and Emerging Trends in International Disaster Management (Panel)

The audience will learn about the collaborative process used to develop, collate, and publish an edited book that was sponsored by the FEMA Higher Education Program. The editors of the book will discuss how this project was managed and lessons learned, and several authors from both the academic and professional communities will discuss the findings of their chapters.

Dr. Laura Phipps, University of Texas at Arlington

Dr. David McEntire, SFHEA, Utah Valley University

Dr. McEntire is a professor who teaches Emergency Management, Homeland Security, and National Security at Utah Valley University. His expertise is in vulnerability reduction, community preparedness, response coordination, terrorism, and international disasters. He has published several books and more than 150 articles/chapters/manuscripts.

Incorporating Artificial Intelligence into Emergency Management Education (Workshop)

Artificial Intelligence is at the forefront of the modern Emergency Management workplace. Come learn how to incorporate AI into your program and coursework in ways that prepare students for the job market, encourage creativity, and discourage academic dishonesty.

Sarah Miller, M.P.A., CEM, Pierce College

Ms. Miller has been an Emergency Management practitioner for more than 30 years and the Chair of the Emergency Management academic program at Pierce College since 2021. She also holds an adjunct position at Georgetown University. She is a Certified Emergency Manager, past president of IAEM Region 10, and serves as a CEM Commissioner. She is a graduate of FEMA's Basic, Advanced, and Executive Academies and serves on the faculty of all three. She also holds a graduate certificate in Information Security and Assurance and is a certified Cybersecurity Manager. She is currently finishing a Ph.D. on AI and Emergency Management.

Lenora Borchardt, Pierce College

Ms. Borchardt became interested in Emergency Management when Hurricane Eloise forced her family to spend several nights in a Florida high school gym. After starting in first response, she shifted to Emergency Management, first at Meriter Hospital, then in Wisconsin Emergency Management, and finally as a county director. Since 2003, she has been consulting in the United States and internationally in all the Mission Areas. She is an instructor at NDPTC and at FEMA's Emergency Management Institute and an Adjunct Assistant Professor at Pierce College. She is also completing her doctoral studies in Adult Education with an emphasis in Instructional Design and Technology.

Day 2 Breakout Presentations

Instilling Equity as a Foundation of Local Emergency Management (Traditional)

This presentation will align most directly with the "Building More Resilient Communities" theme as equity is a cornerstone to more resilient communities. It will also align with the "Pioneering Ideas and Practices" theme because it will explore diverse interpretations of equity within the realm of local Emergency Management, placing a significant emphasis on translating equity concepts into practical implementation. In terms of topics, it clearly aligns with the "Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion."

Dr. Joseph Ripberger, University of Oklahoma
Dr. Ripberger is an Associate Director and the Deputy Director for Research at the University of Oklahoma's Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis. He is also an Associate Professor of Public Policy in the Department of Political Science. His research focuses on risk and public policy with an emphasis on extreme weather and climate policy.

Clinton McNair, University of Oklahoma
Mr. McNair is currently a Ph.D. candidate in the Political Science Department at the University of Oklahoma. His areas of research are in public administration and public policy, with a focus on social equity, nonprofits, Emergency Management, and local government. His research analyzes the public perception of social equity and the influence of representation. He is building his research portfolio to discuss improving equity and preparedness following a disaster. In addition, his research focuses on how local governments and nonprofits work to improve the living conditions of impoverished communities across America.

Vulnerability Assessment of Electric Vehicle Drivers During Hazardous Flooding Evacuation (Traditional)

In response to the introduction of Electric Vehicles (EVs) in the U.S. market, current evacuation planning has yet to address the distinctive charging needs of these vehicles. EV adoption remains subject to technological and infrastructure challenges, such as driving range, long charging times, and sparse charger networks. While these barriers might be manageable in business-as-usual conditions, they magnify existing shortcomings for EV drivers during evacuations. This presentation would showcase our project on assessing the vulnerability of EV drivers and their charging infrastructure during evacuations in disaster-prone regions. The project develops a novel EV evacuation simulation model and multi-criteria vulnerability metric and applies it to flooding evacuations in the Southern Lake Michigan region. An open-source data set is created to aid in evacuation guidance for SLTT EMs. Additionally, the session delves into discussions regarding potential infrastructure and preparedness measures to mitigate vulnerability and enhance the efficiency of EV evacuations.

Denissa Purba, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Ms. Purba is a Ph.D. Candidate in Civil Engineering at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She holds an M.S. from UIUC and a B.S. from the Institut Teknologi Bandung, Indonesia, in the same field. Her research focuses on integrating electrified transportation planning, energy technology analysis, and evacuation management modeling to enhance community resilience against disasters and climate change. Her work aims to promote the adoption of alternative fuel vehicle technologies and improve the efficacy of emergency preparedness and education.

The Integration of Academic Research and Pedagogy into Resilience Training (Traditional)

Address the theme of "Pioneering Ideas and Practices" by describing innovative concepts derived from academic research and pedagogy. This will be presented in the context of two university programs that integrate research and pedagogy with the development of community resilience training programs. The presentation will be followed by a brief breakout session where participants will discuss their responses to three questions pertaining to ideas for developing local community resilience trainings at their institutions of higher education.

Dr. Julia Crowley, AICP, University of Missouri-Kansas City
Dr. Crowley is an Assistant Professor of Urban Planning and Design at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Her research focuses on disaster management, specifically debris management, social vulnerability, risk perception, and environmental justice. She has published in a variety of peer-reviewed journals, some of which include *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction*, *International Journal of Disaster Risk Science, Journal of Emergency Management,* and *Risk Hazards & Crisis in Public Policy*. She has also developed and taught several university-level courses, many of which focus on Emergency Management.

Day 2 Breakout Presentations

Including Perspectives from the Blind and Visually Impaired People in Emergency Management (Roundtable)

Discuss situations and challenges that the blind and visually impaired people face in the cycle of Emergency Management. The roundtable discussion group will identify opportunities for innovative strategies that blind and visually impaired people can use to help them during disaster preparedness, evacuation, and recovery. We will also explore universal design strategies to improve inclusivity and accessibility in evacuation routes and emergency shelters.

Yifan Li, University of California, Irvine

Ms. Li is a Ph.D. student in Urban Environmental Policy and Planning. Previously she finished her undergraduate study at the University of Washington and master's study at University of Southern California, both in Urban Planning. She served as a tutor at the Los Angeles Unified School District, apprenticed as a math teacher at the School District of Philadelphia, and worked at/volunteered for several community-based non-profit organizations in Seattle and Los Angeles.

Theory to Practice (Panel)

Theories are systematic and evidence-based approaches to processes and phenomena. They help us understand, describe, characterize, and predict outcomes. Theories help us understand processes, phenomena, and life in general. Five panelists will share their sense of theory and how they use it in their courses, programs, and research.

Dr. John Comiskey, Ed.D., Monmouth University

Dr. Comiskey is an Associate Professor of Homeland Security at Monmouth University. His research interests include mass shootings, climate security, and intelligence. He is a retired New York City Police Lieutenant and a retired U.S. Coast Guard Reserve Senior Chief Petty Officer. His professional experiences include law enforcement, intelligence, counterterrorism, and event and crisis management. He holds a B.A. in History and an M.S. in Social Studies and Secondary Education from Queens College, an M.S. in Homeland Security from the Naval Post Graduate School, and an Ed.D. from St. John's Fisher University. He is an author of numerous peer-reviewed journal articles, and editor of the *Journal of Security, Intelligence, and Preparedness Education*. He is an appointed member of the CDC, World Trade Center Health Program, Scientific/ Technical Advisory Committee, co-founder of the Center for Homeland Defense and Security's HSx Advanced Thinking in Homeland Security Program, and a retired marathoner.

Dr. Carol Cwiak, J.D., North Dakota State University

Dr. Cwiak is an Associate Professor of Emergency Management at North Dakota State University (retiring May 2024). She holds the first Ph.D. in Emergency Management. Her work focuses on Emergency Management identity, professionalization, ethics, higher education, business continuity, and systems thinking. Her past projects include: the *Code of Ethics and Professional Standards of Conduct for Emergency Management Professionals*; National Emergency Management Executive Academy; Higher Education Program survey; Body of Knowledge survey; the *Principles of Emergency Management; Curriculum Outcomes; the Next Gen Core Competencies*; the Training and Education Synergy group; and multiple FEMA EMI course developments.

Dr. Shirley Feldmann-Jensen, M.P.H., P.H.N., R.N., California State University Long Beach

Dr. Feldmann-Jensen is Program Coordinator and Lecturer for the M.S. Program, Emergency Services Administration, at California State University Long Beach. She has policy expertise at the intersection of disaster risk management and human outcomes; with a scholarly focus on foundations that advance the professionalization of the emergency management workforce. Her Doctoral degree was earned in Policy, Planning and Development at the University of Southern California, Sol Price School of Public Policy. She also holds an M.P.H. from California State University of Long Beach, and a graduate certificate in *Health Emergencies in Large Populations* from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She is currently a Co-Lead of the FEMA Higher Education Ethics SIG and serves on the editorial board for the *Journal of Security, Intelligence, and Resilience Education*.

Dr. Terrence O'Sullivan, M.A.A.S., University of New Hampshire

Dr. O'Sullivan is the University of New Hampshire B.S. in Homeland Security Program Coordinator, and Associate Professor and incoming Chair of the Department of Security Studies. He holds a Masters in African Area Studies from UCLA, and a Ph.D. in International Relations from the University of Southern California. His scholarship and teaching concentrate in security studies related to Emergency Management and community disaster resilience; pandemics and public health security; environmental security and the mitigation and adaptation to the climate/global heating crisis; critical infrastructure systems; terrorism; and theoretical, policy, and pedagogical implications of the above.

Optional Events

Student Meet and Greet

June 2, 7:00–9:00 p.m. | Command Post Pub Patio

The Student Meet and Greet will be a time for students from all institutions to meet before the official start of the Symposium. This will serve as a space to network and have any last-minute questions answered about the upcoming week. This event is open to all Bachelors, Masters, and Doctoral students. Activities include: Icebreakers, Networking, and Gameplay (virtual trivia or board games).

Brittany Giles-Jones, Clark Atlanta University

Dr. Terry Cooper, University of New Haven

Campus Tour

June 3, 4:00–4:30 p.m. | Meet in the back of the Auditorium

Weather permitting, take a guided tour of the National Emergency Training Center (NETC) campus. A former college campus, NETC is now home to the National Fire Academy (NFA), U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), and Emergency Management Institute (EMI).

International Breakfast

June 4, 8:00–9:00 a.m. | K Building, Executive Dining Room

The International SIG will welcome all international participants by hosting an International Breakfast during the 2024 Symposium. Participants who work in countries outside of the United States can meet with members of the International SIG and eat breakfast together as they get to know each other and network for potential collaborations.

Dr. Ray Chang, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

Dr. Laura Phipps, University of Texas at Arlington

Meet the Authors

June 4, 4:30–5:30 p.m. | B Building, Command Post Pub

"Meet the Authors" is a great opportunity for authors and participants to network. Have the opportunity to meet and greet with published authors, discover new and updated textbooks, pick up copies of free resources, and enjoy a presentation by the NETC librarian. Participating authors include: Andrew Boyarsky, Dr. Bethany Swindell, Bob Campbell, Damon Coppola, Dr. David McEntire, Dr. DeeDee Bennett-Gayle, Dr. Jamie Stacy, and Dr. Shirley Feldmann-Jensen.

Damon Coppola, Shoreline Risk LLC

Caroline Hassler, NETC Librarian

SIG Meetings

See page 30 for more details and SIG meeting times.

Day 3 Breakout Presentations

The Use of Technology in the Emergency Management Classroom (Traditional)

Technology advancements in public safety are on the rise with many benefits to the profession. This session will examine different ways in which technology can be efficiently integrated into current Emergency Management courses to give future Emergency Managers a greater comfort level with using advanced technology to improve community resiliency. This session will discuss technologies such as predictive software and databases, as well as hardware technologies such as the use of unmanned aerial systems in the classroom.

Dr. Kevin Kupietz, Elizabeth City State University

Dr. Kupietz is Chair of the ECSU Department of Aviation and Emergency Management/Associate Professor Emergency Management. He is a NC certified Firefighter/Paramedic with more than 30 years of emergency response experience with local, state, and Federal agencies. With academic interests including emergency responder safety, functional needs, preparedness education, drones, and leadership, he exemplifies the need of interdisciplinary studies in the Emergency Management field. He has been a recognized speaker at local, state, and national venues in the realm of public safety. He lives by the saying that if you are not having fun, you are not doing it right and tries to apply this saying in everything that he does.

Emergency Preparedness and Technology in the New Digital Age (Traditional)

New concepts and tools are likely needed to change the culture of preparedness, which will hopefully reduce risk among those most at risk. This presentation explores the possibility of leveraging new and emerging technology to increase disaster preparedness based on the results of a nationwide survey funded by FEMA launched in December 2023.

Dr. DeeDee Bennett-Gayle, University at Albany, State University of New York

Dr. Xiaojun "Jenny" Yuan, University at Albany, State University of New York

Dr. Yuan is an Associate Professor in the Department of Information Sciences and Technology of the College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity, and a Faculty Fellow of the Center for Technology in Government at University at Albany, State University of New York. Her research and teaching interests include both Human Computer Interaction and Information Retrieval, with the focus on user interface design and evaluation and human information behavior. She serves as the current chair of the Special Interest Group on Information Seeking and Use of The Association for Information Science and Technology community, and as an Editorial Board Member of the *Aslib Journal of Information Management* and *Annual Review of Information Science and Technology.* She received her Ph.D. from Rutgers University at the School of Communication and Information and Ph.D. from the Chinese Academy of Sciences in the Institute of Computing Technology. She received her M.S. in Statistics from Rutgers University and M.E. and B.E. in Computer Application from Xi'an University of Science and Technology in China.

The Current Landscape of the Emergency Management Workforce (Traditional)

Explore the initial findings from their research study, "Current State of DEI in the Emergency Management Workforce: A Mixed-Method Approach," on the demographic makeup of the Emergency Management workforce and pathways to enhancing DEI in our collective capacity-building efforts.

Dr. Rita Burke, M.P.H., University of Southern California

Dr. Burke is an Associate Professor of Clinical Population and Public Health Sciences at the Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California. She has a joint appointment in the Department of Pediatrics. She has more than 70 peer-reviewed publications, and 50+ abstracts and book chapters. She currently serves on the National Advisory Committee on Children and Disasters established to advise the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on the medical and public health needs of children in disasters. She is the former co-chair of the Research Committee for the Pediatric Trauma Society and current co-chair of the Los Angeles Children in Disasters Working Group. She is the recipient of the 2021 Impact Makers to Watch and the 2021 USC Faculty Mentoring Graduate Students Awards. She received her M.P.H. and Doctorate in Epidemiology from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Lorraine Schneider, CEM, The Resiliency Initiative

Ms. Schneider is a Certified Emergency Manager who serves as the Chief Operating Officer of The Resiliency Initiative, a crisis management and business continuity consulting firm empowering organizations to become self-reliant. Previously, she developed groundbreaking training, exercise, and preparedness programs serving The Walt Disney Company and the University of California, Los Angeles. She holds an M.S. in International Strategy and Diplomacy from the London School of Economics and Political Science, a Certificate degree in Emergency Management and Homeland Security from UCLA Extension, and a B.A. in North American Studies from the Freie Universität Berlin.

Day 3 Breakout Presentations

Interprofessional Education: A Curricular Framework for Next Generation Emergency Management Professionals (Traditional)

Disaster response and recovery is complex. To meet today's challenges requires interdisciplinary teams with specific knowledge, skills, competencies, and the ability to collaborate. Interprofessional education provides one method to achieve these goals. This session will present a curricular framework for interprofessional education, and other instructional tools that can be utilized to increase collaborative practice for the next generation of Emergency Management professionals across the distributed functions of Emergency Management.

Dr. Terry Cooper, M.S., M.P.H., CEM, University of New Haven

Dr. Cooper is an accomplished professional in Public Health and Emergency Management, boasting more than two decades of combined experience in forensic Mental Health, Public Health, and Emergency Management. He is a Certified Emergency Manager, a Master Exercise Practitioner, and a graduate of the National Emergency Management Advanced Academy. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Food Science from the University of Florida, as well as a Master of Science in Emergency Management and a Master of Public Health from the University of New Haven. He is a William Averette Anderson Fund Fellow and recently completed his Doctor of Health Science in Educational Leadership.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness Workforce Competencies for the Next Generation (Traditional)

University of Washington conducted a study to examine competencies needed for the public health emergency preparedness and response workforce in the United States, informed by focus groups with experienced PHEPR practitioners. In this session, we begin by presenting the seven competency domains, including communications, management and leadership, and collaboration, with equity as a cross-cutting domain. We then offer a discussion about methods for implementing competencies in an academic setting, particularly for programs focused on Emergency Management and/or Public Health. The presentation invites both educators and practitioners to participate in this interactive discussion.

Ashley Moore, M.P.H., University of Washington

Ms. Moore is a Ph.D. student at University of Washington interested in studying how policy impacts community engagement and public health emergency preparedness. She graduated from Yale University in 2020 with an M.P.H. in Social and Behavioral Sciences and specifically looked at mental health assessment tools used in disaster research. She then participated in the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education fellowship at CDC in which she evaluated disaster recovery programs and participated in hurricane and COVID-19 responses.

Resham Patel, University of Washington

Ms. Patel is an assistant teaching professor at the University of Washington and serves as the Director of Practitioner Engagement for the UW Center for Disaster Resilient Communities. She has more than 15 years of local and national experience as a preparedness professional, including at Public Health – Seattle and King County and the National Association of County and City Health Officials. She is an alumna of the Emerging Leaders in Biosecurity Fellowship and serves on several national workgroups. She is a doctoral candidate at Johns Hopkins University and has a Master of Public Health degree from Columbia University.

Introducing Artificial Intelligence in Emergency Management Technology Courses (Traditional)

Dr. Wang shares his experience in introducing artificial intelligence to his students during his undergraduate courses on Emergency Management technologies at Massachusetts Maritime Academy. The introduced AI topics include coding, machine learning, artificial neural network, and generative AI such as OpenAI's ChatGPT.

Dr. Yi Victor Wang, Massachusetts Maritime Academy

Dr. Wang is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Emergency Management at Massachusetts Maritime Academy. He earned his Ph.D. degree in Civil Engineering with the direction of Societal Risk Management from the University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign in 2018. He holds an M.S. in Disaster Science and Management from the University of Delaware and a B.A. in Applied Disaster and Emergency Studies from Brandon University in Canada. His major academic interests include data analytics, quantitative modeling, and artificial intelligence in management of disasters. Outside of academic life, he is a Boston-qualifying marathon runner.

Day 3 Breakout Presentations

FEMA IHE Research Projects: Data Insights for Community Empowerment (Panel)

Data plays an integral role in decision and policy making, and in community action. Led by the panel's moderator, the speakers on this panel will share insights from their projects—which were all funded by FEMA IHE in 2023–2024—that have worked to better understand and identify gaps and methods for data collection and communication with underrepresented communities.

Dr. Richard Rushforth, Northern Arizona University

Dr. Rushforth is an Assistant Research Professor in the School of Informatics, Computing, and Cyber Systems at Northern Arizona University. He is a data scientist studying food, energy, and water systems and their intersection with critical lifelines and national defense. He is co-PI on the NSF-funded Transformation Network and lead research scientist on the NSF-funded FEWSION Project. Through FEWSION, he has worked on DoD-funded projects and engaged with the FEMA NIC Supply Chain Technical Assistance Cohort. He is also the greenhouse gas inventory lead for the State of Arizona's response to the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant.

Dr. Paula Buchanan, M.B.A., M.P.H., CPH, Northern Arizona University

Denissa Purba, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Dr. Christina Barsky, M.P.A., University of Montana

Dr. Barsky is an Assistant Professor of Public Administration and Policy at the University of Montana, where she works to solve wicked problems and meet societal challenges with the current and next generation of public servants. Her research explores the citizen-state encounter across various facets of society. Prior to her academic career, she held leadership positions with a premier public affairs firm and a regional nonprofit collaborative. She continues to serve as a research and strategy expert through her consultancy and currently serves as the elected chair of her county election advisory commission.

Dr. Lauren McKeague, M.P.A., University of Montana

Dr. McKeague is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Public Administration and Policy. After graduating from the University of Florida with degrees in political science and anthropology, she pursued an M.P.A. at Florida State University. She then worked for the State of Florida in various capacities, including with the Executive Office of the Governor and the Florida Division of Emergency Management. She holds a doctorate in Public Administration and Public Affairs from Virginia Tech, and her research explores how interorganizational collaboration and networks can be used to address wicked problem areas, like Emergency Management and drug control.

AI in Emergency Management: Ethical Considerations and Challenges (Traditional)

Delve into the ethical complexities surrounding the integration of AI in Emergency Management and explore key considerations like bias mitigation, privacy protection, and public trust-building while proposing frameworks to harness AI's potential responsibly. Through real-world examples and expert analysis, attendees will gain a nuanced understanding of balancing technological advancements with ethical imperatives for equitable and effective crisis response.

Jaideep Visave, Greensboro Police Department

Mr. Visave is a distinguished Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Response Specialist, renowned for his expertise in developing and executing sophisticated strategies aimed at bolstering community safety and fortifying infrastructure against disasters. He has a proven track record of leading multidisciplinary teams, conducting extensive community drills, and managing efficient relief operations. His commitment to community engagement and advocacy for cutting-edge solutions, including the adoption of O2C3 and DRR-CCA methodologies alongside flood-proofing initiatives, underscores his innovative approach to disaster management. His exceptional leadership and communication skills have made him a go-to expert in enhancing disaster preparedness and response capabilities, significantly elevating emergency response effectiveness and community resilience.

Abby Cameron, Greensboro Police Department

Ms. Cameron is a former Mass Care Manager from North Carolina Emergency Management. During her time at NCEM, she managed multiple disasters including Hurricane Matthew, Western NC wildfires, Charlotte, NC riots, NC fuel shortage, and spent several weeks in Puerto Rico working after Hurricane Maria. She also has many years of service to the American Red Cross in Raleigh, NC, as a Disaster Manager covering multiple areas of the State. Currently, she is a volunteer for the Greensboro Police Department in Greensboro, NC.

Day 3 Breakout Presentations

Roundtable Discussion: Code of Ethics and Professional Standards of Conduct (Roundtable)

The Code of Ethics and Professional Standards of Conduct for Emergency Management Professionals (doi.org/10.5055/jem.0831) was created to further delineate the ethical boundaries and conduct expectations for professional Emergency Management practice. This Roundtable will engage participants in dialogue regarding diffusion and integration of the Code and Standards with practice and education. This work is openly accessible and can be obtained by registering with the *Journal of Emergency Management.*

Dr. Sandy Smith, R.N., Arkansas Tech University (Retired)
Dr. Smith graduated with a B.S. in Nursing from Duke University and earned her Ph.D. in Nursing from Loyola University Chicago. Prior to becoming the Department Head of Emergency Management, she taught at Arkansas Tech University in the Departments of Nursing and Emergency Management as a professor. Her teaching specialties remain ethics, public health, and research. She has co-authored the *Next Generation Core Competencies for Emergency Management Professionals: Handbook of Behavioral Anchors and Key Actions for Measurements*, leads the FEMA Higher Education Ethics SIG, and serves as the Assessor Manager for the Council for the Accreditation of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Education (CAEMHSE). She currently is the Board Chair for the Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare system in Memphis.

Dr. Shirley Feldmann-Jensen, M.P.H., P.H.N., R.N., California State University Long Beach
Dr. Andrea Adams, J.D., M.B.A., University of the District of Columbia
Dr. Carol Cwiak, J.D., North Dakota State University

Making Flood Messages Meaningful to Build Community Resilience (Workshop)

Creating and delivering impactful messages that affect communities' flood decision making and resilience requires academics, Emergency Managers, government officials, and government agencies to work together is hard. Our team's Emergency Manager and county judge partners will discuss their view on the team's research-to-practice philosophy, that puts communities, Emergency Managers, and public officials at the forefront of these projects. Our academic partners will share two projects that developed tangible products for communities using a Spanish-first, bilingual format, and a set of community tailorable graphics, postcards, and flyers. All materials will be made available to session participants.

Keri Stephens, University of Texas at Austin
Ms. Stephens is Professor of Organizational Communication and Technology and Co-Director of Technology and Information Policy Institute at The University of Texas at Austin. For more than 20 years her research has brought together different strands of communication inquiry. She has authored more than 100 peer-reviewed publications and produced two national-level award-winning books. Her work regularly receives Federal and state funding, and she gave a TEDxTalk on her NSF-funded Hurricane Harvey research. She loves partnering with communities, and her community-engaged work has received awards from both the National and State Association of Counties.

Nancy Carlson, M.A., University of Texas at Austin
Ms. Carlson is a doctoral student in The Communication Studies Department at the University of Texas at Austin. Her research primarily focuses on disaster communication and preparedness, specifically, the challenges vulnerable and marginalized communities face during natural disasters. She has co-authored textbook chapters on disaster rescue communication and qualitative research, specifically negotiating organizational access. She has also co-authored articles on disaster preparedness barriers and risk information seeking. She is a part of two research groups, Optic Lab and TIPI. She received a B.S. in Psychology and an M.A. in Disaster Studies from the University of Texas RGV.

Judge Joanna MacKenzie, Hudspeth County, Texas
Judge MacKenzie's passion for serving others has led her into just about every possible environment—from rural and suburban 911 as a nationally-registered paramedic, to Level I trauma centers, high-risk desert medicine, and corporate compliance. For nearly 20 years she has been a leader in disaster response, prevention, and preparedness. She's brought her linguist and critical leadership skills to disasters, including Hurricane Katrina, and has provided low-resource pre-hospital care in Haiti, medical clinics at refugee camps in Mexico, and pandemic Emergency Management. In addition to serving as Hudspeth County Judge, she was previously their County Emergency Management Coordinator.

Cody Powell, Wise County, Texas
Mr. Powell has been the Emergency Management Coordinator in Wise County for 6 years. He served 6 years in the U.S. Marine Corps, 12 years in the fire service, and is a Licensed Peace Officer. He was recently elected Vice Chair of the County-Judge-appointed Regional Emergency Preparedness Advisory Council, serves as Co-Chair for the regional Cybersecurity working group, Technology Officer for the North Texas Public Safety Unmanned Response Team, and is on the Texas Emergency Management Advisory Committee. He earned a B.A.S. from Wayland Baptist University and an M.P.A. from Sam Houston State University.

Day 3 Breakout Presentations

Innovative Solutions Through FEMA/Higher Education Partnership: A Problem-Based Collaborative Pedagogical Model (Other)

Higher Education Academicians are consistently encouraged to bridge academia with practice. As educators, opportunities to bring practical experiences to our students are incredibly valuable. NDSU partnered with FEMA Region 8 to develop a course based on current challenges emergency practitioners experience in the field unique to our region. FEMA R8 professional "problem sponsors" identified seven unique problem statements for students to research and create potential workable solutions. Using a modified Team Based Learning design, NDSU created a model for Problem Based Education interdisciplinary course that can be adopted within any program. This workshop will provide an opportunity for participants to review the model and develop implementation strategies that fit their unique program needs.

> **Dr. Caroline Hackerott,** North Dakota State University
> Dr. Hackerott has been a university administrator and faculty member for 30 years and is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Landscape Architecture, Disaster Resilience, and Emergency Management at North Dakota State University. She received her Ph.D. in Emergency Management from Oklahoma State University. Her research interests include community-based adaptive capacity, issues at the intersection of rural communities, climate change, and disasters, the scholarship of teaching and learning in Emergency Management and Homeland Security Higher Education, and the application of social routine theory in response and long-term recovery.
> **Dr. Carol Cwiak, J.D.,** North Dakota State University
> **Daniel Green,** FEMA Region 8

Centering Local Experience: Pioneering Visual Storytelling in Disaster Research (Traditional)

Visual storytelling is a pioneering tool in disaster research that records stories from survivors of natural disasters and shares their lived experiences to help others learn lessons about disaster response. These stories can help prepare other communities for future natural disasters and build resilience in communities that have already experienced them.

> **Dr. Christina Barsky, M.P.A.,** University of Montana
> **Dr. Lauren McKeague, M.P.A.,** University of Montana
> **Dr. Hugo Sindelar,** Montana State University
> Dr. Sindelar is an Assistant Professor at the Montana State School of Film and Photography. Hugo has a Ph.D. in Environmental Engineering Sciences, and an M.F.A. in Science and Natural History Filmmaking. After graduating with his Ph.D., he decided to pursue a career in science filmmaking. His films have covered a diverse array of topics including western wildfires, thermophiles in Yellowstone, elk, soil carbon research, and an Arctic climate monitoring expedition. These films have been featured on PBS, the Yellowstone National Park website, and in numerous film festivals.

One in Five Hundred Film Screening (Traditional)

The film, One in Five Hundred, which documents the 2022 Yellowstone National Park floods, will be screened. Afterwards, participants will be asked to complete a brief survey. Responses to the survey will be used to improve the film and measure its impact.

> **Dr. Hugo Sindelar,** Montana State University
> **Dr. Christina Barsky, M.P.A.,** University of Montana
> **Dr. Lauren McKeague, M.P.A.,** University of Montana
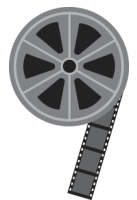
Day 3 Breakout Presentations

Campus CERT and Expanding Equity (Traditional)

Campus Community Emergency Response Team (CERT): Learn about CERT and how a CERT can benefit your campus, and ways you can start a Campus CERT at your college or university. Presenters will also discuss emergency management opportunities and Campus CERTs at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and minority serving institutions.

Amitai "Tai" Zuckerman, FEMA Individual and Community Preparedness Division

Mr. Zuckerman manages the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program for FEMA. He is a Homeland Security and Emergency Management professional with experience in Risk Analysis and Emergency Management programs. Tai has worked for the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, Hagerty Consulting, Inc., and he was an AmeriCorps member with the American Red Cross. He holds a Master of Arts in Global Security Studies from The Johns Hopkins University, an Executive Certificate in Counter-Terrorism Studies from the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism at Reichman University in Herzliya, Israel, and a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies from the University of Oregon.

Brittany Giles-Jones, M.P.A., AEA, CEM, Clark Atlanta University

Ms. Giles-Jones has more than 15 years of professional experience working in sectors across academia, production development, and Emergency Management. As the former Assistant Managing Director at The Juilliard School and a graduate of Metropolitan College of New York, She has a vested interest in program and curriculum development and expanding the footprint of Emergency Management at underrepresented institutions. In her current position as an Emergency Management consultant, she primarily provides development and research support for the Technical Services Unit at CDM Smith, focused on supporting FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance Programs. As a doctoral student at Clark Atlanta University, she focuses on understanding historical inequities in disaster planning and response. A proud Pracademic and supporter of Emergency Management organizations and connections, she is a William Averette Anderson (Bill Anderson Fund) Fellow, Mercatus Center Fellow, International Association of Emergency Managers member, and one of the co-leads for the FEMA Higher Education Symposium Historically Black College and University (HBCU) SIG.

Resilience Analysis and Planning Tool (RAPT): Train-the-Trainer for Faculty (Workshop)

The Resilience Analysis and Planning Tool gives Emergency Managers access to powerful data and GIS mapping that helps them better understand their community. This workshop focuses on giving faculty the tools and information needed to incorporate RAPT into Emergency Management higher education courses and programs. **Note: Participants are strongly encouraged to bring a laptop or tablet to participate in active demonstrations and activities.**
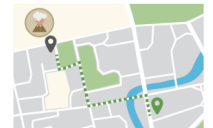
Dr. John Carr, Argonne National Laboratory

Day 3 Breakout Presentations

Harnessing the Hidden Gems: Grey/Gray Literature for Effective Emergency Management (Workshop)
Disaster preparation, response, and recovery demand access to rich, up-to-date information. While peer-reviewed journals hold valuable knowledge, they are often not up to date with real-world, current events. This workshop will dive into the often-overlooked realm of grey/gray literature for disaster and Emergency Management professionals. Note: Participants are strongly encouraged to bring a laptop or tablet to participate in active demonstrations and activities.
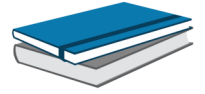
Tenley Sablatzky, M.L.I.S., Prairie View A&M University/Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Ms. Sablatzky has been the Medical Librarian for the Texas Undergraduate Medical Academy at Prairie View A&M University since 2020. Prior to that appointment, she interned in the Kalamazoo Public Law Library as well as the Air Zoo: Aerospace and Science Museum Library, while completing her MLIS degree at Wayne State University. She holds a B.A. in English from Western Michigan University, and she serves on several professional committees for the MLA and the American Library Association. Currently, she is working on her Ph.D. in Media and Communication Studies at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Academic Community Awards

Kay C. Goss Innovation and Technology Award
Presented By:
Arkansas Tech University

Dr. B. Wayne Blanchard Award for Academic Excellence in Emergency Management Higher Education
Presented By:
North Dakota State University
Awardee:
Dr. Susan Cutter

2024 Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Award
Presented By:
University of Central Florida
Awardee:
Dr. Brittany Haupt

Meldon Hollis Award
Presented By:
Texas Southern University
Awardee:
Meldon Hollis

Social Justice and Equity Award
Presented By:
Jacksonville State University
Awardee:
Dr. Oluponmile Olonilua

FY23 Research Awards

Where You Stand Depends on Where You Sit: Understanding Stakeholder Perceptions of Community?
Dr. Christina Barsky, Dr. Lauren McKeague, Dr. Josephine Hazelton-Boyle, Dr. M. Blake Emidy, University of Montana

Current State of DEI in Emergency Management Workforce: A Mixed-Methods Approach
Dr. Rita Burke, Lorraine Schneider, University of Southern California

Current and Emerging Trends in the International Management of Disasters
Dr. Laura Phipps, University of Texas at Arlington; Dr. David McEntire, Utah Valley University

Emergency Preparedness and Technology
Dr. DeeDee Bennett-Gayle, Dr. Xiaojun "Jenny" Yuan, University at Albany, State University of New York

Community Vulnerability Assessment for Electric Vehicle Travelers Responsive to Extreme Flooding
Dr. Eleftheria Kontou, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

One in Five Hundred - Film
Dr. Hugo Sindelar, Montana State University

Developing an Inclusive Approach to Emergency Management Workforce Training and Development
Dr. John Aliu, University of Georgia; Dr. Oluponmile Olonilua, Texas Southern University

An Examination of Emergency Management Workforce Job Posting and Undergraduate Degree Program Alignment Analysis
Arthur Simental, Colorado Technical University; Dr. Tina Bynum, Pikes Peak State College; Sinan Khan, California State University Long Beach

Binghamton Two Degrees: What will Binghamton Look Like Under Two Degrees of Warming and What Can We Do Now to Prepare?
Dr. Andreas Pape, Dr. Hiroki Sayama, Dr. Leslie Heywood, Dr. Rory Eckardt, Dr. Monica Adams, Dr. Jeremy Blackburn, Dr. Adriane Lam, Dr. Lucky Mason-Williams, Dr. Barrett Brenton, Dr. Nicole Rouhana, Dr. Yvonne Johnston, Dr. George Homsy, Dr. David Mixter, Dave Hubeny, Dr. Carl Lipo, Binghamton University

Instilling Equity as a Foundation of Local Emergency Management
Dr. Joseph Ripberger, Clinton McNair, University of Oklahoma

Learning from the Marshall Fire to Inform Emergency Management and Resilience-Building
Dr. Katherine Dickinson, Hannah Walters, Colorado School of Public Health

Publication of the Methodology Report and Code of Ethics and Professional Standards of Conduct for Emergency Management Professionals
Dr. Shirley Feldmann-Jensen, California State University Long Beach

The Ten States Project
Monica Sanders, Dr. Randall Amster, Kleoniki Theodoridou, Georgetown University

Leveraging Community Science and Data-Driven Engagement Processes to Identify Methods for Equitable Data Access and Use
Sean Ryan, Dr. Richard Rushforth, Dr. Paula Buchanan, Northern Arizona University and Rochester Institute of Technology

Open-source Adaptation of Multidisciplinary LEAN Innovation Curriculum for Use in Emergency Management Programs
Dr. Carol Cwiak, Dr. Caroline Hackerott, North Dakota State University

Special Interest Group Meetings

June 4, 4:30–5:30 p.m.

Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) and Jobs and Internships

Room K302

Dr. Caroline Hackerott,
North Dakota State University
Dr. Mark Landahl,
City of Rockville
Dr. Stacy Willett,
University of Akron

June 4, 4:30–5:30 p.m.

Collaboration, Connection, and Commitment to 2-Year Programs

Room K318

Diana Culp,
Mid-Atlantic Center for Emergency Management

June 5, 2–2:30 p.m.

International Emergency Management

Room S125

Dr. Ray Chang,
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
Dr. Laura Phipps,
University of Texas at Arlington

June 4, 4:30–5:30 p.m.

Theory and Research

Room K308

Dr. Ray Chang,
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

Dr. Lucia Velotti,
City University of New York (John Jay College)

June 4, 4:30–5:30 p.m.

Experiential Learning and Leadership

Room K314

Elizabeth Dunn,
University of South Florida

Rebecca Morgenstern Brenner,
Cornell University

June 5, 3–5 p.m.

Ethics in Emergency Management

Room S125

Dr. Shirley Feldmann-Jensen,
California State University Long Beach

Dr. Sandy Smith,
Arkansas Tech University (Retired)

See the full listing of SIGs on the Higher Education website:
training.fema.gov/hiedu/specialinterest/sig.aspx

Anyone interested in joining a SIG should reach out to the associated SIG lead(s) on the Higher Education website.

FEMA Regions

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