

## Higher Education Program News February 19, 2016

### Higher Education Updates

#### **Message from Wendy Walsh, Higher Education Program Manager**

I am thrilled to share that we received more than 50 abstract submissions for the symposium by our deadline! This response was greater than we were expecting, and I am so grateful to our community! We will be kicking off the blind peer-review process next week, and I am filled with gratitude for so many emergency management academics volunteering to serve in the reviewer role.

As we prepare for the symposium, I am hoping you will make some time to think about how the Higher Education Program can best serve your needs as well as what gifts and contributions you make to the community. In a prior newsletter, I shared with you our eight goals for 2016, and one was that our “symposium host a vast community of higher education special interest groups that take ownership in their areas of expertise.” We want to ensure that we are leveraging, as well as consciously creating, opportunities for the vast expertise of the higher education community to serve the entire emergency management academic discipline and practice. To this end, we need to better define our pockets of expertise. This has been done to some degree by convening of our focus groups and sharing publications and curricula, but I think there may be more opportunities.

In recent months, I have heard inspired conversations regarding the application of chaos and complexity theory. This has led me to wonder if there is a group in our community that would like to make a commitment to convene and host dialogues and write on this theoretical application to emergency management. I have also heard wonderful discussions on the application of service learning, how to successfully apply action research, organizational theory, systems thinking, and social networking. Groups of emergency management educators and researchers forming around topics such as these could provide a powerful space to disseminate research, share good practices, and provide opportunities to write and research collectively. I am looking forward to learning more about our community’s gifts, expertise, and passions over the next few months. I know June will be here before we know it!

#### **Higher Education Program Presents Webinar Series- Session VI - February 24, 2016- 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. EST “Understanding the Basic Relationship between Public Information Officers and Journalists”**

The webinar will provide college-level emergency management and homeland security educators with a basic understanding of the relationship between public information officers and journalists.



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FEMA

Ed McDonough, Maryland Emergency Management Agency, and Stacey Cohan, freelance journalist, will present. Stephen Carter, Mid-Atlantic Center for Emergency Management, Frederick Community College, will moderate. FEMA ESF-15 representation will be available to discuss training opportunities available through EMI. Participants are asked to [register](#) in advance for the online webinar. Closed captioning will be provided.

## EM Hi Ed Webinar Series

Please send webinar topics to Wendy Walsh at [wendy.walsh@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:wendy.walsh@fema.dhs.gov)

**College List** - The Higher Education Program is in the process of updating the website [college list](#). The update is an effort to keep the information as fresh and current as possible. Send your updates to [Barbara.Johnson3@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:Barbara.Johnson3@fema.dhs.gov).

**The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Emergency Management Higher Education Symposium** is scheduled from June 6-9, 2016, at the National Emergency Training Center, Emmitsburg, MD. Mark your calendars now. Information for the 2016 symposium can be found on the [Hi Ed website](#). **Call for poster submission is OPEN!** Go to [instructions and fillable submission forms](#). **Poster session submissions must be received by March 31, 2016.**

## Job & Internship Opportunities

FEMA – vacancy announcement for [Procurement Information Specialist](#), GS-0303-07/09

FEMA - vacancy announcement for the position of [Contract Specialist](#), GS-1102-12/13

FEMA - vacancy announcement for an [Emergency Management Specialist](#) (Preparedness), GS-0089-9/11

## Resources

[Sign up for Children and Disasters Newsletter](#). The FEMA Children and Disasters Newsletter is a resource for youth preparedness practitioners, educators, parents, children, and teens.

Congressional House Homeland Security Committee: [Terror Threat Snapshot February 2016](#)

[DHS Announces Funding Opportunity for Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2016 Preparedness Grants](#)



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FACT SHEET: [Cybersecurity National Action Plan](#)

FEMA: [Notice of Adjustment of Statewide Per Capita Indicator for Recommending a Cost Share Adjustment](#)

Ongoing Challenges and Future Considerations for DHS Biosurveillance Efforts, [GAO-16-413T](#)

## **Calendar**

[IAEM-Canada to sponsor Golden Horseshoe Sector Working Group Workshop, April 5-6, 2016, Grimsby, Ontario](#)

[FEMA is looking for Youth Preparedness Council applicants.](#) Students in 9th and 10th grade are encouraged to apply. **Applications are due March 1.**

[Operation Volunteer Placement - A VRC Tabletop Exercise](#), February 24, 2016

Save the date, **May 24–26**, for FEMA's [National Training, Education, and Exercise Symposium](#) in Emmitsburg, Maryland. **Applications are due April 12.**

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[Sign up via our free e-mail subscription service](#) to receive notifications when new information is available from the Higher Education Program and FEMA.gov.

**“FEMA’s mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.”**

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