



## Higher Education Program News

October 28, 2016

### Higher Education Updates

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

This week Ms. Lillian Virgil, EMI Mitigation Branch Chief, and I attended the National Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Week Conference in Washington D.C. It was a very informative and inspiring few days. We met a lot of new people, learned about the great strides made by the HBCU academic community and was very impressed by the passion, intellect and professionalism of the HBCU All-Star Students. We had the opportunity to meet with several Higher Education community members who are working in HBCUs. We also shared the upcoming EMI E0390 course, [Integrating Emergency Management Education into Your Institution Course](#), which is designed for minority and minority-serving institutions of higher education.

The purpose of the conference was to address the priorities conveyed in [Presidential Executive Order 13532](#). There were many celebrations of the accomplishments of HBCU institutions in the science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields as well as advancing the cause of equality and opportunity for all people. The main challenges expressed were student completion and program sustainment. To address these areas several breakout sessions were held to promote: federal government engagement, collaborative research, STEM investments, innovation, fundraising, effective board governance, leadership in driving diversity, recruitment, internships and how to leverage federal contracting opportunities.

HBCU institutions have a rich story of triumph in the face of incredible obstacles! Several times I heard speakers mention the metaphor that they are standing on the shoulders of giants. While the challenges faced today are tough, 'due to the great advances in civil rights and community achievements, HBCU are emerging as leaders in STEM fields, providing higher educational opportunities to students who would have otherwise not been able to participate and producing notable PhDs.

Many attendees took the time to visit the new [National Museum of African American History & Culture](#) while they were in town and highly recommend this powerful and educational experience. There are a lot of resources on the museum webpage that would be interesting and powerful additions to curriculum. For example the great Mississippi River Flood of 1927 story can be found [here](#). This story covers the impact, providing pictures, maps and songs that capture the impact to the African American population. During this flood, "Hundreds of thousands of African Americans were displaced from their communities and workplaces." The final report of this disaster, submitted May 21, 1929, can be found [here](#).





What other resources are you using in your courses to explore and learn more about the impact of disasters on minority populations? As we strive to be inclusive of our Nation's whole community in emergency management activities, we need to provide time in our instruction to ensure we are fully addressing and cultivating understanding of the diverse sociocultural tapestry of our Nation.

**EM Higher Education Community Conference Calls – Please join us.** The purpose of the call is to: learn from the emergency management academic community what is new and exciting in their world; find out about ongoing projects; discuss higher education community needs that we can address; and provide the opportunity for callers to ask questions. **The date for the next conference call is MONDAY, November 21 from 2:00-3:00 p.m. EDT.** Please note this is a change from our regularly scheduled Thursday call and let us know if you have specific topics you would like to discuss. The call information is **800-320-4330, PIN: 376368.**

**EM Hi Ed Webinar Series** - If you are interested in sharing your expertise, or would like us to cover a specific topic in a future webinar, please contact Wendy Walsh at [wendy.walsh@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:wendy.walsh@fema.dhs.gov).

**College List** - The Higher Education Program updates the website in an effort to keep the information current. Please respond as soon as possible with your update and thank you to all of you who have responded. Next year, the update templates will be pre-populated with your information to facilitate much easier updates. Send your updates and questions to [FEMA-emi-collegelist@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-emi-collegelist@fema.dhs.gov).

Have you heard of our community special interest groups (SIGs)? They are an opportunity for YOU to be involved. The SIGs serve as a focal point for community development in their special area, potentially co-authoring/researching, and serving as mentors to students and subject matter experts to practitioners. If you are interested in joining a SIG please email us, and we will connect you with the SIG lead. The current SIGs are:

- Theory and Research Practices
- International Emergency Management
- Service Learning and Leadership
- Science and Technology Integration in Emergency Management Higher Education
- Information Exchange and Symposium
- Accreditation
- Jobs and Internships for Emergency Management Students and Graduates
- Emergency Management and Homeland Security Higher Education Unity of Effort
- Money Issues of Emergency Management
- Inter-organizational Emergency Management
- Race, Ethnicity & Economic Impacts in Emergency Management
- Virtual Resources & Simulation Tools for the Emergency Management Classroom





**Mark Your Calendar for the next Hi Ed Symposium! The 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Emergency Management Higher Education Symposium will be held June 5-8, 2017** at FEMA's National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

### **Employment**

Royal Roads University in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada is seeking applications for a limited-term full time faculty position at the Assistant, Associate or Professor level in the Disaster and Emergency Management Program.

University of Kansas, Lawrence - Emergency Management Specialist. The deadline is Nov 1, 2016.

Vacancy announcement, National Integration Center, GS-14 Supervisory Emergency Management Specialist. OPEN: 10/25/2016/CLOSE: 11/03/2016, Supervisory Emergency Management Specialist (Preparedness), FEMA-17-TM-119740-MP.

### **Resources and Announcements**

Private Flood Insurance in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), CRS Insight. IN10450

Department of Homeland Security Appropriations: FY2017. R44621

Meeting the Challenges of Sustainable Infrastructure: The Role of Public Policy

### **Calendar**

Humanitarian Evidence: 4th Evidence Aid International Conference – Washington, D.C., November 17 & 18, 2016. The conference presentations and interactive discussion will address the access, uptake and use of evidence to facilitate decisions grounded in the best knowledge when responding to or preparing for disasters and other humanitarian emergencies.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Webinar: Teen CERT, Campus CERT and Workplace CERT. On Wednesday, November 2, FEMA's Individual and Community Preparedness Division. The webinar will focus on best practices, challenges and successes of starting and growing a program in each category. Wednesday, Nov. 2, 2016, 3-4 PM ET.

FY 2016 Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) Open Application Period is now through 5 PM ET November 18.

Call for presentations open until Dec. 1 for 10th Annual Homeland Defense & Security Education Summit, March 23-24, 2017, George Mason University in Arlington, Virginia.



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