

Emergency Management/Homeland Security Higher Education Regional Academic Collaborative Region VII

Region VII Academic Collaborative Meeting Report

September 25, 2019

The Region VII Academic Collaboration Meeting Report aligns exercise objectives with preparedness doctrine to include the National Preparedness Goal and related frameworks and guidance.

This report was prepared by:

Dominique Dillon, Bellevue University

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ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW

Meeting Name	Emergency Management/Homeland Security Higher Education Regional Academic Collaborative Region VII
Meeting Dates	Wednesday, September 25, 2019
Scope	The collaborative engagement was a planned 1 day, 4½ hour long event for academics and practitioners from FEMA Region VII sponsored by Bellevue University in Bellevue, Nebraska. The engagement consisted of presentations, sharing examples of successful and forthcoming efforts to move academic and research outputs to emergency management practice followed by open discussion engaging all participants.
Engagement Theme	Practices of collaboration among faculty, researchers, students, and emergency management practitioners within Region VII.
Purpose	To build awareness, gather successful regional practices of collaboration with faculty, students, and researchers working with Emergency Management practitioners, as well as identify pioneering opportunities.
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To support regional community connection and collaboration.2. Create a dynamic regional-specific report identifying academic and broader community resources, capabilities, and expertise to support on-going regional academic and practitioner partnership.
Sponsor	FEMA Emergency Management Higher Education Program
Participating Organizations	21 participants attended the engagement, representing a variety of public and private academic institutions, organizations, and government agencies. A comprehensive list of participants is available in Appendix A.
Point of Contact	Wendy Walsh, Higher Education Program Manager Wendy.walsh@fema.dhs.gov , 301-447-1262

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On Wednesday, September 25th, a group of practitioners, academics, and intersections of the two from FEMA Region VII assembled at Bellevue University in Bellevue, Nebraska. The focus of this meeting was to discuss collaboration between faculty, students, researchers, and emergency management organizations within the region. The purpose of the meeting was to build awareness, capture successful regional practices of collaboration, as well as identify untapped opportunities among the Region's colleges/universities, researchers, and emergency management practitioners. The engagement provided opportunity for the members to develop new relationships and further engage in discussion about the future direction of the collaborative effort. Sponsored by FEMA's Emergency Management Higher Education Program, the Region VII meeting marked the continued effort to learn about the successes and challenges throughout all the 10 Regions.

The engagement commenced with a series of presentations, sharing examples of successful and developing efforts to connect academic and research institutions to practice. Presenters shared collaborative practices and strategies used within their organizations. Those delivering presentations included: The FEMA Higher Education Program, Naval Postgraduate School, University of Nebraska-Omaha's Emergency Management and Disaster Science Program, Bellevue University's Emergency Management Program, and U.S. Army Command and General Staff College's Homeland Security Studies Program.

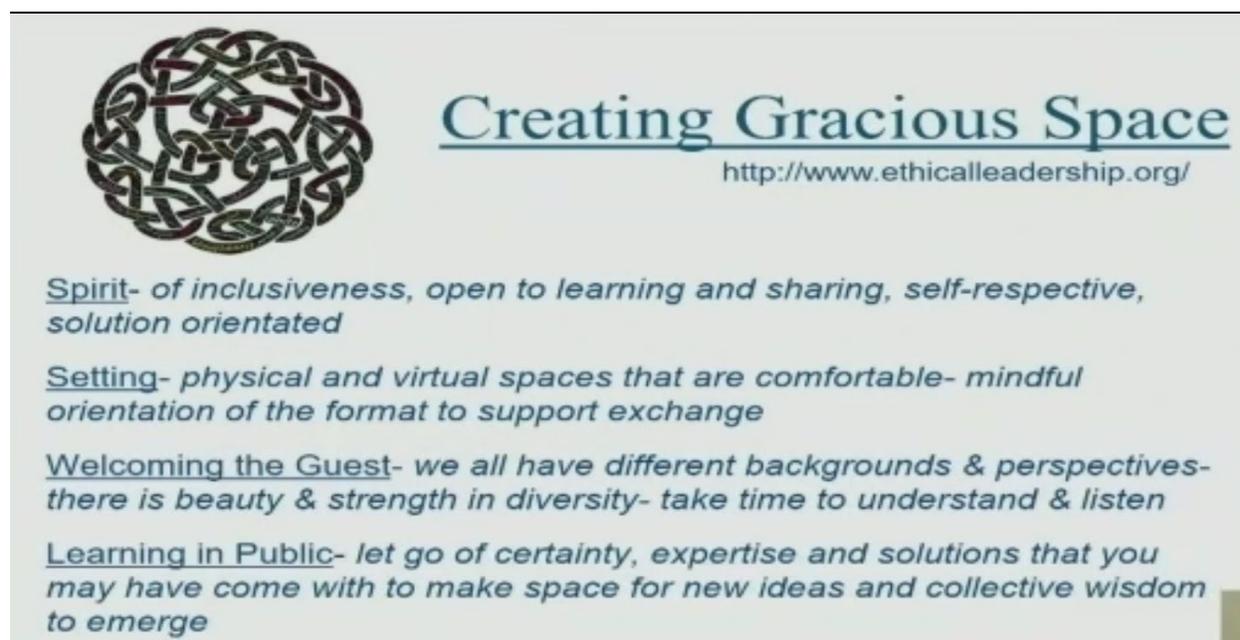
Methodologies for collaboration between academia and practitioners included program development, developing innovative methods to solve problems, structured internships, and the organization of academic programs in the emergency management community. Following the opening presentations, the group engaged in open discussion. The discourse was centered on processes of creating bridges between the academic and practical spheres. From the discussion, several themes and reoccurring opportunities for further collaboration and exploration emerged along with potential corresponding guiding strategies. Key themes discussed were the increasing complexity of the practitioners' working environment, the implementation of internships, actualizing community networks, the value of practical experience, academic program structure and pedagogy, and the characteristics of knowledge necessary for effective practitioners.

INTRODUCTION

Linda Davis – Region VII, Community Preparedness Officer for FEMA

Ms. Davis initiated this meeting. She explained September's motto was "Prepared, not scared." Out of the 10 Regions, this meeting marks the 10th final regional meeting. The goal of these meetings is to create a network of resources. The meetings focus on the strengths and challenges within the Regions. Each Region's meeting covered varying topics. Next, she thanked Mr. Greg Allen and Bellevue University for hosting the event. Then, she introduced Ms. Wendy Walsh, FEMA Higher Education Program Manager.

Wendy Walsh, Program Manager: FEMA/NTED/NTES Higher Education Program: Gracious Space and Introductions



Ms. Walsh began by explaining that her job is to create a welcoming space for people to connect. She discussed "Creating Gracious Spaces" retrieved from the [Center for Ethical Leadership](http://www.ethicalleadership.org) (<http://www.ethicalleadership.org>). This includes the aspects of spirit, setting, welcoming the guest, and learning in public. The spirit in the room should be one of inclusiveness – open to learning and sharing while remembering to be self-respect and solution-oriented. The setting symbolizes a physically comfortable, well-lit, and temperate space that is mindful of orientation and formatted to support an exchange of information. In welcoming guests, one should be aware that all participants come from different backgrounds and perspectives. This highlights the beauty and strength in diversity, prompting participants to understand and listen. Learning in public dictates that the ideas of certainty, expertise, and personal solutions must be relinquished in order to make figurative space for new ideas and collective wisdom.

Participants are encouraged to come forward with concepts and make space for new ideas. The stated purpose of the Region VII Higher Education Academic Collaborative engagement is to build awareness, capture successful regional practices of collaboration with faculty, students, and researchers, and identify best practices and combine resources. The stated desired outcome of the event is to support regional community connections and collaborations. Another outcome is to highlight regional-specific resources, emphasize the various skills within the Region, and encourage support for ongoing regional academic and practitioner partnerships.

ENGAGEMENT PRESENTATIONS

Wendy Walsh, Program Manager: FEMA/NTED/NTES Higher Education Program – Collaboration Opportunities

Ms. Walsh discussed the National Preparedness Directorate and its six divisions. The National Preparedness System outlines an organized process so the community can successfully gravitate its their preparedness activities and achieve the National Preparedness Goal. The six activities are: identifying and assessing risk, estimating capability requirements, building and sustaining capabilities, planning to deliver capabilities, validating capabilities, and reviewing and updating.



She elaborated on FEMA’s Strategic Plan. FEMA’s strategic plan focuses on three main goals: build a culture of preparedness, ready the Nation for catastrophic disasters, and reduce the complexity of FEMA. Within each goal are several objectives. The strategic plan is human-centered, in that there are individuals accountable for each goal, as well as additional individuals responsible for each objective. This has allowed FEMA to flourish towards its vision of developing a prepared and resilient Nation.

Ms. Walsh closed her discussion with ways that the Higher Education Program can create a shared vision and engage in dialogue between FEMA and local communities. The program hosts webinars, regional engagements, and symposium engagements. The next symposium will be June 1–4, 2020. The theme is “Imagination, Improvisation, and Innovation in Emergency Management Education.” The regional collaborations connect academic, practitioners, and FEMA across all 10 Regions. The intent of these collaborations is to build awareness of the various disciplines, capture successful practices, and identify untapped opportunities. The Hi Ed Program sends via email a weekly newsletter informing and sharing information with the emergency management and homeland security academic community, state, local, tribal, territory, and Federal partners. The program develops course modules and research reports. There are focus group activities in several areas, such as internship development, scholarship of

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teaching and learning, tribal college and universities, and Puerto Rico academic program. Fifteen special interest groups have also been established; each serve as a self-organized community. The Hi Ed Program has compiled a list of all collegiate academic institutions in the community that it is aware of. The Higher Education Program is building a learning community and developing sustainability among emergency management and homeland security.

**Steve Recca, Co-Director, University and Agency Partnership Initiative: FEMA
Region VII/NPS/CHDS UAPI Program & Opportunities Overview**

Mr. Steve Recca presented an overview of the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS), the Center for Homeland Defense and Security (CHDS), University Agency Partnership Initiative (UAPI), and resources available to emergency management personnel through agency-academic collaborations. The CHDS was developed to strengthen the national homeland defense and security by providing graduate educational programs. UAPI facilitates educational collaboration among institutions and agencies to support development of academic programs. The three priority areas for UAPI are: conduct an annual education summit, facilitate a community of practice in homeland security-related higher education, and serve as a resource hub. The Annual Conference was held on October 30, 2019 – November 1, 2019 in Monterey, California. The theme is “Public Interest Security: Leveraging Education to Connect Policy and Operations with American Perspectives of Homeland Security.” Mr. Recca elaborated on the Homeland Security Digital Library and the Journal of Homeland Security Affairs as valuable resources. He provided website links to UAPI and CHDS for additional resources:



- [UAPP](https://www.uapi.us/programs/2077) (https://www.uapi.us/programs/2077)
- [Center for Homeland Defense and Security/Master Degree Program](https://www.chds.us/c/academic-programs/masters) (https://www.chds.us/c/academic-programs/masters)
- [CHDS/Ed](https://www.chds.us/ed/) (https://www.chds.us/ed/)

He encouraged the members of Region VII to stay connected as a community and build on the learned resources available across the Regions. Region VII should continue to hold consortium engagements. He suggested developing internships, increasing the number of students within the academic and agency programs, and overseeing research opportunities. He offered NPS and CHDS to serve as guest speakers. He suggested conducting collaborative events with government agencies.

Lyndsey Rice, Academic Advisor: University of Nebraska-Omaha (UNO) Emergency Management and Disaster Science Program

Ms. Rice began by explaining the various degree programs offered by the University of Nebraska – Omaha. The Emergency Management and Disaster Science Program is housed under the College of Public Affairs and Community Service, within the School of Public Administration. The program develops skills in preventing, planning and preparing for, responding to, and recovering from large-scale natural or man-made disasters and public events



that require inter-agency and/or inter-jurisdictional involvement. The University offers a certificate, bachelor's, master's, and Ph.D. degrees. The bachelor's degree requires 120 credits. The University is transfer-student friendly and accepts some military credit. The courses are offered on campus in a traditional classroom and in an online delivery or a mixture of both. An Internship and Capstone Project are required. After Ms. Rice's presentation, Ms. Walsh added that UNO brought a team of students to the University of Utah to participate in a national tabletop exercise. This is a strong example of a regional collaborative effort.

Greg Allen, Professor: Bellevue University's Program Updates and Collaborative Efforts

Mr. Allen described Bellevue University as offering associate's, bachelor's, master's, and Ph.D. degrees. The University was one of the first universities to develop an online teaching delivery. After the event of 9/11, the University started the Security Management Program, offering both undergraduate and graduate degrees, with concentration in Emergency Management. Its philosophy is "Real learning for real life." Professors have not only the educational background, but also the experience working in the field. Students have the option of completing a Portfolio Project or giving a presentation at a national venue. Mr. Allen elaborated on community involvement with Emergency Management, Security, and Law Enforcement. The program arranges professional lectures related to the field. Examples of lectures include the 9/11 Commission, Christina Anderson, (shot twice in the Virginia Tech Shooting), and a Captain from the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department who talked about the recent Las Vegas shooting.



**Shawn Cupp, Professor: Homeland Security Studies Program – U.S. Army
Command and General Staff College**

Mr. Cupp discussed the Homeland Security Studies Program. It is an interdepartmental initiative to provide students with concentrated Homeland Security curriculum. The curriculum spans the spectrum of homeland security, homeland defense, and defense support of civil authorities' activities at tactical, operational, and strategic levels. The college offers individual electives, Master of Military Arts and Science, and some certificate programs. Mr. Cupp the college is accredited by USNORTHCOM to award the DSCA Phase II certificate. For student engagement, they have had some of their previous officers specifically study the Southwest borders as part of a course. There is a Mobile Training Team that goes to the Customs and Border Protection to teach military decision making, which allows for the discussion of operations with a common language. He addressed the Homeland Security electives offered in the various departments. This allows for diversity within the program. There are two Certificate options: DSCA Phase 2 (48 hours) and Homeland Security (72 hours). They offer guest speaker support, such as the Department of Justice, Joint Task Force North, and the Department of Homeland Security. There are faculty development activities: exercise participation, take DSCA Ph 2 course to make sure it's up to date, NORTHCOM Joint Training, and other CEUs. They also offer DSCA Engagement.

PARTICIPANT ENGAGEMENT

Ms. Sharon Medcalf with the University of Nebraska Medical Center, College of Public Health, explained the University began its graduate certificate in 2011 and the master's degree in 2012. The university has a Medical Sciences Interdisciplinary Area which allows students to get a Ph.D. In 2002, the university started an outreach training program. Ms. Medcalf explained that public and private business have emergency preparedness personnel. The program has been getting International Fulbright scholars from humanitarian organizations. She believes there is a gap between public health preparedness and the emergency management community. She would like to increase the collaborative efforts between the programs.

Mr. Donovan Diaz with the University of Kansas discussed the master's program, which is housed under the law school. The 33-credit hour master's program is strictly conducted in a traditional classroom; there are no online courses. It is an interdisciplinary approach; approximately 18 hours are taught by law professors. Some of the courses include terrorism and finance, cybercrimes, plant security (plant explosions), and crisis communication. In the crisis communication class, students need to manage a press conference. Mr. Diaz also supported increased collaboration and offered their resources and program assets.

Mr. John Carr with Northwest Missouri State explained their program. It is a non-comprehensive major, meaning students need to get minors, which customizes the interests of the students. They are working on developing an Emergency Response Training facility. For student engagement, they host a full-scale exercise once a year and partner with the National Guard for the Rescue Tower Collaboration Site.

Mr. Rick Young with Union College discussed the International Rescue and Relief bachelor's program. All the staff members are first responders. All the freshmen become EMTs, and the seniors spend an entire semester in a developing country. The college partners with the Red Cross. For 1 week every month, students handle all the Red Cross calls for their chapter. This allows students to get hands-on experience.

Mr. Adrian Self with Kansas State University described the National Agricultural BioSecurity Center. He explained it does not belong to a college. It is housed under the University's Vice President for Research. It helps students get a research assistant spot or summer intern for the Department of Agriculture, for example. Mr. Self discussed the complexity of the Animal Disease Response Course. He elaborated that input is needed not just from agriculture, but also from veterinarians and public health. He stated the general public does not understand that Biosecurity is a matter of public health life protection.

Mr. Shawn Steadman with St. Louis University examined the Emergency Management Program with concentrations in Intelligence and Cybersecurity. The University also has a Biosecurity Program and Business Continuity. It has established public and private advisory boards that advise the program on how to move forward. The program is an online hybrid delivery, with students attending traditional courses during the summer.

Other Jesuit Universities are using the programs. Those universities will instruct the core classes, but the students will get their major or minor from St. Louis University. However, St. Louis University's name is not on the degree. The Program is housed under the School for Professional Studies. Faculty are first responders and second responders, such as emergency managers. For student engagement, the students design functional and full-scale exercises and tabletop exercises. The students designed it from the ground up, including the objectives and tasking. The University works with local and state agencies. Mr. Steadman is also open to collaboration with other entities.

Mike Suttmoeller with Missouri State University discussed the University's 12-hour graduate certificate in Homeland Security. The University offers an undergraduate certificate in Terrorism and National Security. The undergraduate program is interdisciplinary from the Criminal Justice and Political Science programs, including electives. The program is only available online. The University is attempting to develop partnerships with local and state agencies to develop an internship program and guest speakers.

During lunch and before the engagement discussion, Ms. Walsh suggested participants consider 11 common threads of collaboration within Region VII:

1. Faculty Development
2. Exercises (ex. Press Conference Exercise)/Competition
3. Curriculum Sharing
4. Speakers Bureau (National Guard, Intelligence, International Communication)
5. Sharing Research Topics
6. Expertise in the Food Area (Food Security, Biosecurity)
7. Internships Repository
8. DOCC –Distributive Open Collaboration
9. Private Sector Engagement
10. Practitioner Engagement
11. Call Center

ENGAGEMENT DISCUSSION

Following the presentations, the group moved collectively into an open discussion. During the discourse, the presentations were referenced, providing presenters with an opportunity to further share their strategies and offer additional insights to the group. The open discussion provided space for participants to ask questions, voice concerns, and highlight issues. The unstructured dialogue encouraged networking by affording participants the opportunity to connect a specific need with an individual or agency who possessed corresponding knowledge or resources that could fulfill it. Within the dialogue, several recurrent and interrelated areas emerged.

Developing Relationships

Sgt. David Points with the University of Nebraska-Omaha (UNO) Public Safety discussed UNO's open lines of communication with the academic department. He described having supportive relationships with each other. He discussed having students intern with local emergency managers.

Mr. Tim Young with FEMA Region VII described having difficulty reaching volunteers because they have full-time jobs and can't take a week off from work. The various emergency management courses available through online delivery were discussed. FEMA has five courses for the Basic Academy. A question was raised of developing a partnership with an agency for the basic courses online. The need for alternate platforms was addressed. It was suggested that the courses could possibly be broken up among nights and weekends and stretched over a longer period.



Academic Institutions Supporting Training Course Delivery

Mr. Carr discussed using the Canvas Learning Management Platform for delivering the Basic Academy curricula of the FEMA Emergency Management Professional Program. It is an easy way to share content. If the Basic Academy was provided on Canvas, students could easily be added to the Canvas course. Ms. Walsh explained that the FEMA Basic, Advanced, and Executive Academies are outstanding professional development opportunities provided by FEMA and they are not managed by the Higher Education Program. The Basic and Advanced Academies have worked in partnership with state emergency management agencies to provide in-state deliveries. Mr. Allen explained if content is offered through a university, it needs to be accredited. Mr. Akins clarified that academic institutions such as Washington University serve as a hosts for

the Basic Academy, in partnership with the State Emergency Management Agency. Offering the 5-week Basic Academy program in partnership with colleges and universities makes the program more accessible, especially in rural areas, and may also serve as a means to strengthen connections between academics and practitioners. Students are not given course credit by the university but are provided certificates of completion from FEMA if they complete all the course requirements. The Emergency Management Institute (EMI) has been actively exploring a learning management system to facilitate the delivery of instructor-led training courses online.

Ms. Medcalf explained they were afforded the opportunity to take a 4-week class on how to build online courses. Mr. Steadman is part of a group that approves and disapproves all courses. All the instructors must go through a foundations course on how to instruct on Canvas. Ms. Walsh explained this may be beneficial to all FEMA Regions. She posed the question about how the Basic Academy is being delivered. When you get a degree in emergency management, public health, or homeland security, there is a difference in developing a skill set, for example with the Basic versus the Advanced Academy and the Executive Academy, which matches core competencies. Ms. Walsh pointed out that the state training office has state trainers. There is also a collection of higher education curricula and material content freely available on the FEMA Higher Education Program website.

Liability

During the lunch discussion, Ms. Walsh expressed the issue of liability was a common theme. Mr. Carr reviewed the university's legal team and the state involvement of liability issues. Universities want to get their students involved in real-life activities, but this also comes with a certain amount of risk from the state's insurance. Mr. Young explained Union College does carry additional insurance for student internships and field experiences. Mr. Steadman explained St. Louis University does not call the class a formal Internship. This allows for the students to be covered under their placement agency's insurance. Ms. Medcalf explained starting a student response team. It is a student-led organization and she serves as the faculty advisor.

Continued Collaboration

Ms. Medcalf mentioned doing collaborative work between agencies on Federal grants. Ms. Walsh posed the issue of expanding on practitioners within the Region. For example, she mentioned there is not much representation within the private sector, state representatives, or practitioners. Mr. Allen supported this issue of actively seeking additional participants. Mr. Young explained after the flood, NE VOAD (National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster) was added to their group. They now collaborate with their group of emergency managers. Ms. Walsh discussed inviting more people to the next Region VII meeting. Mr. Recca suggested the group meet again in either December 2019 or January 2020. Ms. Walsh supported meeting 3–4 times a year to develop a strong network. Meeting in Kansas City, Missouri, in January 2020 was suggested as the next potential meeting for Region VII. Ms. Medcalf elaborated on

developing a communication hub, such as the SLACK Communication portal. FEMA already uses SLACK through EMI (Emergency Management Institute) for information exchange. She offered to set up a SLACK group for those in attendance. This concluded the meeting.

MOVING FORWARD

Improving networking relationships within the various areas of Region VII was a central theme in dialogue. Collaboration between homeland security, emergency management, academia, government agencies, and the private sector is a prime focus. The focus on the various educational programs highlighted their importance and illuminated potential pathways toward enhancing programs. As graduates of emergency management educational programs begin or continue working within the emergency management professional practice, steps to improve educational programs will have a direct impact on improving practice. Discussion surrounding academic programs served as the basis for the development of the pathways.

Diversity and Inclusivity

- Increase accessibility of program
- Provide enabling and supportive structures

Bridge Academic and Practical Experience (Improved Educational Programs and Improved Practice)

- Design opportunities for students to gain practical experience as part of program
- Connect the program with the community

Increase Partnerships

- Connect with public and private agencies
- Reach out to academic organizations



SUCCESS AND AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Planning, Logistics, and Technology:

Strengths: The event was held on the University's main campus in order to allow sufficient parking for personal vehicles. It was centrally located which allowed for easy access to the venue by public transportation. Bellevue University also welcomed guests with refreshments and a fully catered lunch during the lunchtime recess. The hospitable surroundings allowed a comfortable atmosphere to emerge and translated into constructive collaboration between all participants.

Area for Improvement 1: None noted or suggested.

Symposium Content and Participation:

Strengths: The engagement was exemplified by a running dialogue which began with the presentations, continued throughout the lunch discussion, and ended with the event. Each presentation shared relevant information. Moving into the open discussion, the facilitator posed several questions to the group to discuss in an open forum. The open discussion was productive and allowed for the sharing and addressing of concerns and needs.

Area for Improvement 2: There was no representation from state-level practitioners, corporate organizations, and private sector Members. Many key stakeholders from within Region VII attended the event. However, there is a necessity for greater attendance by the Region VII emergency management stakeholder community. They may have had a valuable perspective and should be included in future events.

Action: A concerted effort should be made to ensure that state emergency management and corporate and private members are aware of the events and invited to participate. We will ensure the report of each regional event is shared with the state emergency management office.

Appendix A: ENGAGEMENT PARTICIPANTS

HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAM		 FEMA	
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT/HOMELAND SECURITY HIGHER EDUCATION REGIONAL ACADEMIC COLLABORATIVE REGION VII		Wednesday, August 25, 2019 10:00 am to 2:30 pm Bellevue University	
Name	Agency or Institution	Email address	Location
1. Greg Allen	Bellevue University	allen@bellevue.edu	In person
2. John Carr	Northwest Missouri State	jcarr@nwmissouri.edu	In person
3. Linda Davis	FEMA RVII-Community Preparedness	linda.davis@fema.dhs.gov	In person
4. Donovan Diaz	University of Kansas	donovan.diaz@ku.edu	In person
5. Dominique Dillon	Bellevue University	ddillon@bellevue.edu	In person
6. Sharon Medcalf	University of Nebraska Medical Center	smedcalf@unmc.edu	In person
7. Samantha Montano	University of Nebraska Omaha	smontano@unomaha.edu	In person
8. Njoki Mwarumba	University of Nebraska Omaha	nmwarumba@unomaha.edu	In person
9. Sgt. David Points	University of Nebraska Omaha-Public Safety	dpoints@unomaha.edu	In person
10. Steve Recca	Naval Postgraduate School-CHDS	sprecca@nps.edu	In person
11. Lyndsey Rice	University of Nebraska Omaha	lrice@unomaha.edu	In person
12. Elayne Saejung	University of Nebraska Medical Center	elayne.saejung@unmc.edu	In person
13. Wendy Walsh	FEMA Higher Education Program	Wendy.walsh@fema.dhs.gov	In person
14. Rick Young	Union College	rick.young@ucollege.edu	In person
15. Tom Akins	FEMA RVII – Regional Training	thomas.akins@fema.dhs.gov	Virtual
16. O. Shawn Cupp	U.S. Army Command General Staff College	orville.s.cupp.civ@mail.mil	Virtual
17. Danielle Green	FEMA Higher Education Program	Danielle.green@associates.fema.gov	Virtual
18. Adrian Self	Kansas State University	amsself@ksu.edu	Virtual

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19. Shawn Steadman	St. Louis University	WSteadma@slu.edu	Virtual
20. Michael Suttmoeller	Missouri State University	MSuttmoeller@MissouriState.edu	Virtual
21. Tim Young	FEMA RVII – Training and Exercise Specialist	Timothy.young@fema.dhs.gov	Virtual

<i>Did Not Attend</i>			
Last Name	First Name	Email address	Agency or Institution
Berkebile	Richard	richard.e.berkebile2.civ@mail.mil	U.S. Army Command General Staff College
Garvin	Robert	robert.c.garven.civ@mail.mil	U.S. Army Command General Staff College
Johnson	Barbara	Barbara.Johnson3@fema.dhs.gov	FEMA Higher Education Program

APPENDIX B: ENGAGEMENT BROCHURE

Emergency Management/Homeland Security Higher Education Regional Academic Collaborative Region VII

Wednesday, September 25th 10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Bellevue University: 1000 Galvin Rd S, Bellevue, Nebraska

Exact location and virtual participation information will be shared after registration

Purpose: *To build awareness, capture successful regional practices of collaboration with faculty, students, and researchers working with emergency management practitioners, as well as to identify untapped opportunities.*

Desired outcome: *To support regional community connection and collaboration, as well as create a dynamic regional-specific report identifying academic and broader community resources, capabilities, and expertise to support on-going regional academic and practitioner partnership.*

Agenda:

10:00–10:30 Welcome & Introductions
Region VII Welcome & Update - Tim Young
Bellevue University - Dr. Greg Allen
Participant Introductions - Wendy Walsh



10:30–12:30 Quick overview of FEMA Higher Education & UAPI programs and successful regional practices to be briefed in 5–10 minutes with a couple minutes for questions:

- *FEMA/NTED/NTES Higher Education Program - Collaboration Opportunities* - Wendy Walsh, PM
- *NPS/CHDS UAPI - Program & Opportunities Overview* - Steve Recca, Director
- *Program Updates & Collaborative Efforts - University of Nebraska - Omaha* - Lyndsey Rice, Academic Advisor
- *Program Updates & Collaborative Efforts - Bellevue University* - Greg Allen, Professor
- *Homeland Security Studies Program – U.S. Army Command and General Staff College* - Shawn Cupp, Professor

12:30–1:30 Working lunch: Small group dialogues to develop idea pathways to practice

- Discuss presentations, other successful practices, and topical areas

1:30–2:15 Small group sharing with the whole group

- Discussion presentation that could be shared and expanded?
- Who are the missing critical stakeholders in the Region?
- Who cares about academic and practitioner collaboration?
- Are there challenges that these group face?
- What is possible in this collaboration?
- What structure and leadership are needed to move forward?

2:15–2:30 Next steps, wrap-up, & gratitude

2:30–3:00 Informal networking (*the meeting ends at 2:30; however, if you can stay a little longer, please do*)

