

## **NHERI Education and Community Outreach Committee**

### **Committee Meeting Minutes**

**October 29, 2020 – 3 pm Central Time via Zoom**

<https://utsa.zoom.us/j/9013659006>

#### **1. Attendance**

Sumeet Kumar Sinha (University of California, Davis – CGM), Mohammad Khosravi (University of Montana, User Forum), Candace Evans (University of Colorado, Boulder – CONVERGE), Laura Lowes (University of Washington, RAPID), Chad Kusko (Lehigh University – ATSS), Lelli Van Den Einde (University of California, San Diego – LHPOST), Mary E. Castillo (University of California, Davis – CGM), Tori Johnson (United States Naval Academy – NHERI User Forum), Kurtis Gurley (University of Florida – Powell Lab), Charlie Dey (University of Texas- TACC), Scott Brandenburg (UCLA – DesignSafe), Erik Salna (Florida International University – Wall of Wind), Trevor Carey (University of California, Davis – CGM), Karina Vielma (University of Texas, San Antonio - NHERI NCO), Robin Nelson (University of Texas, San Antonio -NHERI ECO)

#### **2. Approval of ECO Meeting Minutes**

Chad Kusko (Lehigh) motioned to accept the September NHERI ECO Meeting Minutes, and Charlie Dey (TACC) seconded that motion.

#### **3. ECO Updates**

- Presented REU and Summer Institute information at ICCE
- Presenting at AGU Booth in December
- Waiting on information about the NSF renewal process
- Confirmed UCSD availability for REU students, 2021
- Using Qualtrics (application) and Eventbrite (scheduling)
- Creating Virtual Networking Presentation to be presented at various campuses

The ECO was asked for ideas on how best to utilize the AGU Booth from December 1<sup>st</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> to support the NHERI REU and Summer Institute. Suggestions included: a slideshow of REU alumni video clips, a slideshow of past REU pictures, and a sign-up sheet for those interested in REU, Summer Institute, specific NHERI sites. Additionally, the AGU Booth may host virtual recruitment events for REU and the Summer Institute Virtual Recruitment Event, and the NHERI Virtual Networking and Proposal Planning sessions for December for Lehigh, UCSD, and FIU would be held through the booth.

#### **4. NHERI REU Summer Program**

The first NHERI REU Virtual Recruitment Event was held Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup>. Three alumni presented information and answered applicant's REU questions. One hundred

ten students signed up for the event, and over 50 attended. Currently, there are five completed applications and 75 applications in progress.

The REU Virtual Recruitment event was recorded, and alumni videos are being edited from this recording and posted on DesignSafe > Learning Center > REU when complete. As a result of the success of the first REU Virtual Recruitment Event, two more events are in the works. The first will happen Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, from 4:00-5:00 pm CST, and the second is planned for Thursday, January 21<sup>st</sup>. ECO will invite REU alumni to share their experience, and the format will focus on introducing NHERI sites and the NHERI mission, REU student experience, applicant Q&A, and application tips and process.

Scott Brandenburg, UCLA's Associate Dean of Diversity and Inclusion & Karina Vielma, UTSA Assistant Professor & NHERI ECO, presented information about Inclusive Excellence that NHERI ECO is considering for implementation in the REU and Summer Institute. UCLA developed a curriculum that focuses on real-life examples of implicit bias, stereotype threat, etc. and gives students the toolkit to address these issues, improve communication, and build soft skills. The program may be used in REU virtually using breakout rooms with groups of five or fewer students. We would need 6-7 breakout rooms and 6-7 mentors to moderate the conversations. Discussion during the presentation underscored the importance of carefully selecting the moderators and providing appropriate training for them. Scott also brought up that he believes the curriculum is compliant with the Executive Order on Combative Race and Sex Stereotyping.

The ECO also asked all represented NHERI sites to provide information on policies that might impact 2021 REU students as it becomes available. It seems that the sites have not yet decided on how to proceed this summer. We will revisit this topic monthly to keep abreast of any changes.

### **NHERI REU Summer Program Important Dates**

- REU application deadline February 3, 2021
- Block 1: June 2 - August 10, 2021
- Block 2: June 14 - August 20, 2021
- REU Virtual Research Symposium, August 9 & 10

## **5. NHERI Summer Institute**

The NHERI Summer Institute was launched on October 15, 2020, on the DesignSafe > Learning Center > Summer Institute website (<https://www.designsafe-ci.org/learning-center/summer-institute/>). The flyers have been updated, and previous contacts and organizations have been asked to share the information. Marti will post information on the Summer Institute and the application in the coming weeks.

The NHERI Summer Institute is scheduled for **June 16-17, 2021**, as a face-to-face meeting at UTSA's Downtown Campus. However, UTSA currently has policies in place, due to COVID-19, that restrict the number of non-UTSA visitors to ten. UTSA has not yet decided on policies for Summer 2021, and we are awaiting this decision. We have been told this decision will be made in January 2021. In light of this, the ECO Committee has recommended a cut-off date of January 15<sup>th</sup> to decide on the NHERI Summer Institute format. This cut-off date will allow for sufficient time to schedule or cancel hotels and make additional necessary arrangements. The ECO Committee is hopefully planning for face-to-face but understands that we must also plan and prepare for hybrid and remote format options due to circumstances beyond our control.

In future meetings, we hope to discuss how best to incorporate inclusivity and diversity throughout the Summer Institute.

## **6. NHERI Virtual Networking/Office Hours**

The NHERI Virtual Networking Survey was sent out to all NHERI sites in late September/ early October. Four sites expressed interest in the NHERI Virtual Networking. Three sites (Lehigh, UCSD, and FIU) signed on to try out the idea, and an Eventbrite webpage was created for each experimental facility. The page allows early-career faculty and other researchers to schedule networking and proposal planning between now and May. If your site is interested in NHERI Virtual Networking and Proposal Planning, please contact Robin Nelson ([robin.nelson@utsa.edu](mailto:robin.nelson@utsa.edu)). She will work with you to build and promote your Eventbrite page.

Eventbrite NHERI Virtual Networking/Proposal Planning sites

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/124175962647>

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lehigh-nheri-virtual-networking-tickets-123766279273>

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/125153185547>

The ECO also created advertisement images and text for flyers and social media for each participating site. The ECO Committee was asked for ideas on developing contacts for the NHERI Summer Institute and NHERI Virtual Networking and Proposal Planning targeted at early-career faculty. Suggestions included professional organizations, graduate student organizations, and virtual campus presentations.

## **7. New Business**

The ECO was receptive to implementing the Inclusive Excellence curriculum in both the REU and Summer Institute. Future meetings will discuss curriculum, training, selection of mentors, and integration.

Further, it was suggested that future REU reporting forms should include the option of anonymous reporting of bias, microaggressions, and harassment to promote inclusion and diversity.

## **8. Adjourn**