

**Education and Community Outreach Committee**  
**December 18, 2023 – 2:00 pm Central Time via Zoom**  
<https://utsa.zoom.us/j/9013659006>

**Attendance** Pedro Lomonaco (*Oregon State University—HWRL*), Matt Schoettler (*University of California, Berkeley—SimCenter*), Candace Evans (*University of Colorado, Boulder—CONVEREGE*), Karissa Alarcon (*University of California, Davis, CGM*), Stephanie Paal (*Texas A&M University—User Forum*), Kurt Gurley (*University of Florida, BLWT*), Eric Salna (*Florida International University—Wall of Wind*), Joe Saunders (*Lehigh University—RTMD*), Karina Vielma (*University of Texas at San Antonio—NCO*), Robin Nelson (*University of Texas at San Antonio—NCO*)

**ECO Updates**

- Approval of November Meeting Minutes
- Just a reminder—Hedda Prochaska is happy to revamp facility NHERI DesignSafe websites. Please contact her via Slack or email ([hedda@tacc.utexas.edu](mailto:hedda@tacc.utexas.edu)).
- Wishing you and your family a happy holiday season

**NHERI REU Summer Program**

*Important 2024 NHERI REU Summer Program Dates*

- ***NHERI REU Information Session Dates:***
  - *January 23, 5:00 pm CST*
- *April 23, NHERI REU ECO Meet & Greet*
- *May 31, NHERI REU Mentor Training*
- *June 3 - August 9 — Block 1*
- *June 17 – August 23 —Block 2*
- *August 5 – REU Research Symposium Virtual Practice 8:00 am - 6:00 pm CST.*
- *August 7 & 10 REU Travel Days*
- *August 8 - 9 — NHERI REU Research Symposium hosted by UCSD LHPOST6*

**Report—**

- NHERI DesignSafe— 6 complete; 47 recorded; 59 in progress
- NSF ETAP— 1 complete
- **December 12 Info Session:** 6 attendees, 10 sign-ups, 36 views
- **2023 NHERI REU Summer Program:** Student Projects published, but several projects are still incomplete. Your help would be greatly appreciated (OSU and UCSD).

**Next Steps—**

- Complete REU program video.
- Working with Marti to launch another NHERI REU campaign to encourage applications over the break
- Email recruitment list again first week of January

**NHERI Summer Institute**

*Important 2024 NHERI Summer Institute Dates*

- ***NHERI Summer Institute Information Sessions:***
  - *January 9, 5:00 pm CST*
  - *February 13, 5:00 pm CST*
- *TBD, NHERI Summer Institute Preparation Date*
- *Wednesday- Friday, June 12-14, 2023*
- *NHERI SI representative registration will be sent in January*

**Report—**

- 14 completed applications, 11 recorded, 32 in progress
- **December 5 Info Session:** 7 attendees, 9 sign-ups, 36 views
- Accommodation link is now available on the website:  
<https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?ctyhocn=SATDWDT&groupCode=C>

**Next Steps—**

- Finalize Summer Institute itinerary with ECO Committee
- Email recruitment list again first week in January

**NHERI Graduate Student Council**

**Important Dates**

- **January 5- NHERI GSC Executive Committee Meeting @ 11:00 am – 12:00 pm CST**
- **January 19- NHERI GSC General Meeting @ 11:00 am- 12:00 pm CST with Ian Robertson**

**Report—**

- **Executive Committee Meeting:** January 5, 2024
- **General Meeting:** January 19, 2024
- Lori Peek has agreed to support 5 NHERI GSC members' registration/meals; NCO will support 5 NHERI GSC members' travel to 2024 Natural Hazards Workshop
- NHERI GSC members will be required to present at workshop as well as create a webinar upon return
- Amendment approved; User Forum Representative will now serve a two-year term

**Next Steps—**

- Ian is set to present the third edition of the NHERI Science Plan, January 19, 2024, at 11:00 am CST
- Registration for Mini-Conference and Research Challenge will open in January.

**NHERI Diversity Initiative**

**Report—**

- 2023 Leadership and Facility Survey reports have been posted at <https://www.designsafe-ci.org/facilities/nco/nheri-diversity-initiative/>
- **Leadership—** 85% participation; 45% report gender other than male; 29% first-gen; 17% report being a member of an underrepresented group; 27% report a native language other than English; report being from 21 states
- **Facility—** 42% participation; Facilities reported the same percentage for gender, first-gen, underrepresented group, and native language categories; reported being from 11 states

**Next Steps—**

- Discuss how we might improve participation rate.
- Discuss email work arounds.

**CIMER Training- Building Research Self-Efficacy**

- One idea to help build research self-efficacy and independence, shared by an NHERI REU mentor, is to create a small assignment several times a week to build a rapport with students- collegiality. This will also provide insight into who needs additional help and who is on top of their work.

**Key Questions Discussed:**

- How to gain independence from mentor?
- How mentors address those assumptions on ability?
- What is the difference between an expert perspective and a novice perspective?
  - terminology
  - language
  - approaches differ
  - Experts are more able to critically evaluate a concept. You are not just reading to learn about research or shadowing someone to learn about research. You know how to conduct research and troubleshoot issues.
  - A lot of it is confidence. They ask questions differently as an expert than as a novice. Novices listen more.
- Fostering Independence Padlet- <https://padlet.com/kvielma97/fostering-independence-toap2dw3y7n71o7j>

- Here participants answered key questions about how to foster research independence by defining independence, and the behaviors that indicate independence has been reached.
- Take some time to identify exactly what your mentee should be able to do by the time they leave the program and share those expectations with them at the beginning.
- Why should I ask mentees what they think independence is?
  - Do mentees know what you want them to do? Great opportunity to do this in first mentor meeting.
  - It is important that the NHERI REU objectives are very specific because your definition of success may not be what they the mentee considers success.
- What is confidence?- ask questions, understand research is new territory so no one has the answer to everything, feeling at ease in the process, come up with own ideas, being comfortable with other's ideas.
- How do you convey to your mentees that it is okay to make mistakes? How do you build their confidence?
  - Tell them
  - Give them examples from my past
  - Admit my own mistakes
  - Modeling- showing by example
  - Developing people- iterative, we make mistakes and figure it out as we go, try something and communicate it, admit it, have those expectations at the beginning
- What are some strategies are to support REU students from the beginning?
  - Set expectations- your definition of independence, expressing acceptance of mistakes should be part of the learning process. The NHERI REU program is meant to be experiential.

### **New Business**

- Any new business?
- **ACTION ITEM:** Please complete the When2Meet poll by Friday, January 5, 2024, so we can identify the best date for our January meeting: <http://whenisgood.net/rema7a4>.

### **Adjourn**