

2019 NCHEP Content Committee Call for Presentations

We are pleased to announce the Call for Presentations for the 2019 National Conference on Higher Education in Prison (NCHEP) organized around the theme of **Beyond Barriers**. The full call can also be viewed on the 2019 NCHEP Conference website: <http://www.higheredinprison.org/nchep-2019.html>.

The 2019 NCHEP has a central goal: to mobilize the energy, talent, training, knowledge, wisdom, expertise and experience of the higher education in prison community to expand access to quality higher education in prison and academic reentry support services to currently incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people.

The theme **Beyond Barriers** opens doors for a wide range of presentation topics, and to a wide range of possible presenters. It is aspirational, transformational, disruptive and productive. It provides a broad lens for inclusivity within the higher education in prison community. Most importantly, it is an invitation for people who are currently incarcerated to dream of being/thinking beyond the walls, as it presents a model for people outside of prisons who work to go *beyond the barriers* to bring higher education into prisons.

The theme recognizes that “barriers” are a central and significant challenge for the work of the higher education in prison community: barriers to transitions from prison to campus; barriers within the prison for college programs; barriers between prison administrators, college program administrators and educators; barriers to funding; barriers to higher education in general, etc. We envision the conference as a space to address these and other barriers and more importantly, to imagine collaborations, partnerships, and strategies to move beyond these barriers and open up productive and accessible conversations. We emphasize “beyond” barriers because envisioning new ways to work together is a way to imagine the future, which could mean alternatives to or the abolishment of prisons, equitable access to excellent education inside and outside of prisons, and full opportunities for all people within prisons. We hope proposals will also think expansively about what this “beyond” could look like.

For eight years the National Conference on Higher Education in Prison has served as a space of collaboration, listening, discussion and debate. It exists as a hub for the exchange of information, and for opportunities to network in support of deepening the important academic, advocacy, and activist work happening across the country. Bringing all of this work together, the planning committee for the 2019 NCHEP is pleased to invite proposals that advance efforts that will serve to define the ever-emerging field of higher education in prison.

We invite and encourage a wide range of proposals from all community members, including, but not limited to: activists, academic advisors, artists, college/university administrators, faculty, staff and students, community organizers, currently and formerly incarcerated individuals, department of corrections and prison administrators, higher education in prison practitioners and staff and reentry service providers. For 2019, we especially encourage proposals that highlight collaboration, dialogue, community engagement, and creative forms of expression.

The planning committee has identified six conference tracks of particular relevance to the higher education in prison community of stakeholders, listed below. Proposals that are framed as practical trainings as well as

proposals by currently or formerly incarcerated participants are strongly encouraged. Additionally, all proposals should connect to the conference theme – **Beyond Barriers** – as well as the goals of creating an inclusive stakeholder community committed to access, equity and quality in the field of higher education in prison.

Presentation Tracks:

Collaborations and Partnerships: Working Across Campus, Corrections, and/or the Community
Elevating Voices: Narrative, the Arts, and Creative Expression
Equity in Policy and Practice: Access, Quality, and Pathways to Campus
In the Classroom: Perspectives on Teaching and Learning
Surveying the Landscape of Higher Education in Prison: Research, Evaluation, and Assessment
The Politics of Higher Education in Prison: Advocacy, Activism, and Abolition

Presentation Formats:

- Individual Paper Presentation
- Individual Paper Presentation Panel
- Panel Discussion
- Performance, Media Presentation or Creative Work
- Poster Session
- Work-in-Progress Papers
- Workshop/Training Session

Proposed sessions are encouraged to be interactive and informative, and to reach across the community of higher education in prison. They may provide opportunities for sharing and co-learning and/or frameworks for advocacy, art, engaged scholarship, policy, research, and self-expression. Further information and descriptions of the session types will be coming soon. Helpful guidelines will be posted along with the submission portal.

In addition to these presentation formats, participants interested in hosting a meeting, displaying an exhibit, facilitating a session in the Wellness Room and/or participating in and/or leader other types of events and sessions will have that opportunity in the coming weeks and announced on the conference website:

<http://www.higheredinprison.org/nchep-2019.html>

The **Proposal Submission Portal** will open on April 30 at 12:00pm EST. The **deadline for submissions** is May 20, at 5:00pm EST. **Notifications of acceptance or decline will be sent by June 14.**

Questions? Feel free to discuss your ideas with us before submitting your proposal. Email us at alliance@higheredinprison.org

2019 NCHEP Planning Committee

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- Annie Freitas, Policy Director, Operation Restoration
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- Molly Lasagna, Executive Director, Tennessee Higher Education Initiative
- Terrence McTier, Assistant Professor, Counseling and Higher Education, Ohio University
- Eric Pereira, Senior Program Coordinator at Rutgers University, New Brunswick; New Jersey Scholarship and Transformative Education in Prison Consortium (NJ-STEP)
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