



NRHC Business Meeting @ National Collegiate Honors Council Conference

Dallas, Texas

Saturday, November 5, 2022

10 a.m.

Establish Quorum

Welcome and Call to Order	Darryl Peterkin
Approval of Spring 2022 Business Meeting Minutes	Kathryn MacDonald

Reports of Officers and Board Members

President's Report	Darryl Peterkin
Executive Treasurer's Report	Michael Tasto
2021 Conference Report	Darryl Peterkin
Student Representatives Report	Marcella McCoy-Deh
Faculty Representatives Report	Marcella McCoy-Deh
Report on NRHC Journal – <i>Illuminate</i>	Kathryn MacDonald

New Business

Spring 2022 NRHC Board Elections	Kathryn MacDonald
Theme & Planning for #NRHC2023	Darryl Peterkin & Marcella McCoy-Deh
NRHC Member Involvement	Darryl Peterkin & Marcella McCoy-Deh
Awards and Contests	Kathryn MacDonald
Future Conference Sites	Michael Tasto
Other Business	Open Forum

Adjournment

From the Immediate Past President

Dear Member of the Northeast Regional Honors Council,

We thank you for your continued support of our organization as we continue to build on our success in the post-pandemic era. We have much to celebrate about the past few years and much to anticipate about the future.

Despite some initial concerns that a return to in-person conferences might be too difficult a challenge, the 2022 NRHC Conference was able to run smoothly and safely with great weather, dozens of memorable events, fantastic speakers, and a slate of new perks for our students and administrators.

The conference featured over 300 in-person participants and 50 virtual participants from across the region presenting research in six different formats. Our organization continues to boast strong financial health, and we expect the Pittsburgh venue to be a wonderful follow-up from our meeting in Philadelphia earlier this year.

Speaking of the 2023 Conference, we are thrilled to be returning to Pittsburgh for the first time in seven years. We have an exciting slate of events, speakers, networking opportunities, and new initiatives. Proposals are being accepted now through November 14th.

Beyond our focus on the upcoming conference, we have an agenda of long-term goals that we hope to achieve over the next several years: re-examining our long-term strategic goals in the post-Covid era, continuing our regular open virtual sessions with the executive board for current and prospective member organizations, expanding our slate of virtual offerings throughout the year to enhance the value of annual memberships, and building upon interregional collaboration with the five other regional Honors organizations.

We are pleased to spend this time with you in Dallas, and we look forward to seeing you in March for NRHC 2023!

Sincerely,

Chris Brittain
Immediate Past-President

2022 Spring Business Meeting Minutes

NRHC Spring Business Meeting Sunday, April 10, 2022 7:30 AM



Establish Quorum

1. *Welcome and Call to Order – Chris Brittain*
 - a. The meeting was called to order shortly after 7:30 a.m.

2. *Approval of Fall 2021 Business Meeting Minutes – Kathryn MacDonald*
 - a. There was a motion to approve the Fall 2021 Business Meeting Minutes. It was accepted by one member and seconded by AnnMarie DelliPizzi
 - b. There were no questions or discussion regarding the minutes
 - c. The minutes were passed

Reports of Officers and Board Members

1. *President's Report – Chris Brittain*
 - a. Chris gave a brief recap of the meeting and spoke about the organization as a whole. He is very happy with how everything had come out with the conference and the support – round of applause.
 - b. Chris is thrilled that everything went well and we are looking forward to our next conference.
 - c. We had a few new things that we did this year –
 - i. More virtual Decompression Chambers for both staff/faculty and student
 - ii. Virtual presentation prep sessions for all the presentation formats
 - d. Two years ago, we didn't know how things were going to fair and how NRHC would do – we had 410 registrants this year – we had a virtual component to the conference this year – we got through it, but unsure if we will do it again. Perhaps a virtual session a week earlier than the in-person conference is a possibility.
 - e. We are planning to sign a contract for the 2023 conference soon – details to come.

- f. Chris mentioned the Peer Mentorship Program that Darryl Peterkin will discuss later in the meeting.
- g. We had the professional development workshop after lunch on Saturday for students, but we plan to tweak it for next year but happy with how it came out.
- h. Chris invited feedback from the attendees:
 - i. Linda Kobylarz: Great idea to keep some virtual component and to do it ahead of the in-person conference – sound way of going. And as more institutions look at honors programs for online students, we need to be able to be inclusive. Linda also mentioned that Session I was not as well attended since there were a number of students still disassembling their posters, so perhaps there can be more time between Poster Session I and Session I on Saturday to encourage people to be in attendance at the first session.
 - ii. Susan Dinan thanked the NRHC for providing the presentation prep videos ahead of time.
 - iii. April Patrick thanked the board for designating the Second Dinner for Ramadan on the conference program/schedule
 - iv. Feedback was received on the conference app – it was a good app but would like the option to search by institution to find presentations in the conference program – Chris did mention that the app wasn't cheap and it took a lot of time to tweak it. We will be making the deadline for edits much earlier.

2. *Executive Treasurer's Report – Michael Tasto*

- a. Chris motioned to accept the treasurer's report.
- b. Mike mentioned the work with technology for the conference – we bring our own projectors and Chromebooks for all the presentation rooms – all of that save us money. We ended up at \$9100 in expenses for tech (down from \$18K).
- c. Setting up and executing the Zoom rooms were difficult.
- d. We were just profitable/breaking even this year, which is miraculous.
- e. We've gotten our expenses down overall and our profits up – the increase in dues from \$100 to \$200 will help.
- f. Mike reminded everyone that the registration rate will remain the same for next two years.
- g. Mike mentioned that two projectors died but he was able to find a YouTube video to fix them himself.
- h. YesEvents increased their costs to run conference registration and the apps. Another expense that we have that is costly is sign language interpreters – we want to continue to provide but find more cost-efficient options.

- i. This hotel in Philadelphia was negotiated directly by the NRHC Board (Chris and Mike) – engaging in these negotiations saves us money – we are receiving a \$20 rebate per room night that will be credited to our final bill.
- j. Linda Kobylarz moved to accept the Treasurer’s Report and the motion passed.

3. *Philadelphia 2022 Conference Report - Darryl Peterkin and Chris Brittain*

- a. Darryl began with the Peer Mentorship Program – pairing experienced honors directors with new honors directors. There was a small gathering at the conference, and Darryl hopes to run a Decompression Chamber on the PMP in future. Those who are participating want a regular meeting schedule to maintain the mentor/mentee relationship. Darryl invited suggestions:
 - i. Linda Kobylarz thought the first meeting went very well with lots of engagement and ideas. Having a mentoring program is awesome. Linda is looking forward to having themed meetings with particular topics (creating a budget, etc.).
- b. City as Text – students seemed to enjoy CAT strands. Darryl mentioned that all the information about the strands were packaged and QR codes were available for students to scan.
- c. Speakers – our speakers this year – Heather Thompson, Marybeth Gasman, and Conrad Benner were excellent, particularly our CAT speaker

4. *Faculty Representatives Report – Zachary Aidala*

- a. Zak is pleased with the Decompression Chambers and invited feedback about topics, to just let the Faculty Reps know what you would like to see in terms of professional development
- b. The events in Philadelphia went well – the Big Picture Talk and Consultants’ Corner – thank you to the consultants who helped – AnnMarie DelliPizzi, Tanya Radford, and Linda Kobylarz.
- c. Zak mentioned that we gave out six minority scholarships this year – he wants to encourage directors to continue to have their students apply – they get free conference registration and each student gets \$50 in cash.
- d. Discussion:
 - i. Darryl mentioned that directors were bringing new faculty directors and that is nice that new folks are finding out about NRHC
 - ii. A member in the audience mentioned “faculty fellowships” for those institutions that don’t have the budget to bring a new faculty member.
 - iii. Another idea for the website – a “New Directors Corner” which could dovetail nicely with the PMP.
 - iv. Suggestion to have more Decompression Chambers to tell people what NRHC is all about – Chris mentioned that we ran several of these back in the Fall that lasted about half an hour.

5. *Student Representatives Report – Charlee Henley, Maria Reyes, and Keziah Thomas*
 - a. Keziah and Charlee presented (Maria was not present).
 - b. Keziah began with the art show – we grew the number of the artworks that were on display.
 - c. Maria worked mainly on the social media channels and creating a brand kit for NRHC – advertising all the speakers, conference, events, etc.
 - d. The Student Reps led the Student Activities Committee – thanks to all the students who participated – there was communication via WhatsApp leading up to the conference. They helped with the Thursday night games sessions as well as the Saturday night gala.
 - e. Charlee did mention that the Student Reps did host several Decompression Chambers leading up to the conference so students could meet each other before coming to Philly. In one of those, a group chat was set up so students could sign up and keep in touch with other students. On Tuesday of this week, there was a virtual game night and that was nice before the conference for all the attendees.
 - f. The mix and mingle on Thursday went well and students stayed after the author talk – Charlee thought the groups that were formed during that event stuck with each other throughout the conference.
 - g. The Open Mic Night was on Friday night, and it went really well. People came up in real time to perform and share their talents.
 - h. The Career Building Workshop/Professional Development also went well. The Student Reps had a station there to get feedback – students would like a petting zoo next year. There were also headshots and resume workshop at the session run by other board members.
 - i. The Gala was a success on Saturday night – lots of students attended and enjoyed the DJ and photo booth.

Unfinished Business

1. NRHC Journal – Illuminate – Kathryn MacDonald

- a. The 2021 issue is still live.
- b. Proposals for the 2022 edition are open until mid May 2022 for the 2022 edition.
- c. Kat encouraged the faculty/staff to encourage their students to submit their papers and to especially encourage the artists to send their work to the journal – we always have more academic submissions than art submissions.
- d. The journal will continue to be published exclusively online but we will continue to provide a PDF format for students who wish to print the journal on their own through a very reasonable online printing site.

- e. All students are welcome to propose to *Illuminate*, whether or not they presented at the conference.

2. *Spring 2022 NRHC Board Elections – Chris Brittain*

- a. Before jumping into the elections, Chris remembered that we also had our very first Performing Arts and Film Showcase this year, and he thought that the format went really well. He also reminded everyone to grab their presentation certificates from the Registration area. Finally, a Friday breakfast was added to the food offerings this year. Chris also wants to include a lunch for the SAC (SAC lunch). Chris also complimented the students as many of them were always positive, chatty, and professional throughout the conference.
- b. Chris mentioned the open positions for the NRHC Board:
 - i. Faculty Representatives (2) - (1) One-year term and (1) Two-year term
 - 1. Zak is rotating off and Stacia relocated, so we are seeking two new faculty reps – one to serve for 1 year and one to serve for two years.
 - ii. Vice President
 - 1. This person serves for four years and would run the 2024 conference (location TBA).
 - iii. Student Representatives (2)
 - 1. We had three student reps this year, so that is something we are open to doing again if there is interest.
 - iv. Web Coordinator (1)
 - 1. This is a three year position and the position has grown a lot – updating content on website, working with vendor for CFP and registration and also assisting with the virtual components of future conferences. Chris offered to train this individual. We did not have a Web Coordinator this year, so Chris really helped with the role.
 - v. Linda Kobylarz mentioned that these positions are essential for the running of the organization, and reminded everyone that there are stipends available to help board members offset their costs incurred for travel as part of the board
 - 1. \$1000 for Faculty Reps
 - 2. \$1000 in reimbursement for Student Reps
 - 3. \$5000 for Web Coordinator, Vice President
 - vi. Nominations – the following nominations were received from the floor:
 - 1. Tanya Radford (Dominican College) – Faculty Rep – 2 year
 - 2. Gwen Kay (SUNY Oswego) – Faculty Rep – 1 year
 - 3. Kat mentioned that there is a form to fill out for those who are interested in running – she will send it out to everyone who is interested.

New Business

1. *Planning for 2023 Conference - Marcella McCoy-Deh & Darryl Peterkin*
 - a. We are continuing to solidify sites for future conferences. More details on 2023 to come.

2. *Future Conference Sites - Michael Tasto, Marcella McCoy-Deh, and Darryl Peterkin*
 - a. We will be looking at Pittsburgh for our next conference (2023).
 - b. Suggestions to look at sites in Connecticut were made as well as Massachusetts.

3. *NRHC Member Involvement*
 - a. NRHC members are reminded that they can get involved in:
 - i. Diversity and Inclusion Committee
 - ii. Other Committees – Site Selection, Local Hosts, etc.
 - iii. *Illuminate* is also a place for faculty and students to volunteer for NRHC.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 a.m. so everyone could head to breakfast and Poster Session II!

Executive Treasurer's Report

NRHC Financial Update

November 5, 2022

Dallas, TX Meeting

Balance (July 1, 2018)	\$154,935.90
Balance (July 1, 2019)	\$169,177.97
Balance (July 1, 2020)	\$196,493.36
Balance (July 1, 2021)	\$161,184.65
Balance (July 1, 2022)	\$139,701.65
Current Balance (October 30, 2022)	\$147,696.014

- 2020 Rollover Update
 - **Total Refunded - \$51,178**
 - **Total Rolled over - \$ 58,680**
 - **After the 2022 Philadelphia Conference**
 - **Current Rollover Balance \$16,175**
 - 19 schools with a remaining balance
 - Balances (above) don't reflect our drawdown (\$42,000) in the rollover account
 - Financial Accomplishments from 2021-2022
 - Officer and Director Insurance for NRHC Executive Board
 - Hotel Insurance during the event.
 - All Tax Returns are current.
 - 2021-2022 needs to be filed by 11/15.
 - Senior student in Accounting is doing them again.
 - Cost Stability established:
 - \$325 Conference Registration
 - 2022, 2023, and 2024 – guaranteed?? Inflation...
 - \$199/night Hotel
 - We will work to maintain this price at the conf. hotel.
 - If the numbers (post pandemic) return to ~500-550, Pittsburgh will be very profitable.
 - The board negotiated prices, discounts, and the there is ample capacity.
 - Institutional Membership has increased from \$100 to \$200.
 - Only 3 schools registered, but haven't paid dues. 90 schools have paid.
 - Investment Goals have been on Hold – since March, 2020/COVID.
 - NRHC intends to invest \$100,000 into a low-risk account that earns interest – providing funds for scholarships to attend NRHC.
- Detailed analysis will be provided at the Annual Conference in April 2023.

- **Contact Information:**

*Michael T. Tasto, Ph.D., Dean for the School of Business, Professor of Economics, Treasurer –
Northeast Regional Honors Council*

*SNHU, 2500 North River Road, Manchester, NH 03106
(603) 668 – 2211 x3327, m.tasto@snhu.edu*

2022 Conference Report

Conference Proposals

Total Submissions: 317 proposals

Total Acceptances: 317 (100% acceptance)

Registrations

Conference Registrants: 415 Registrants

Student Representatives' Report

NRHC student representatives attended the NRHC summer planning meeting in Pittsburgh, PA as we plan the 2023 annual conference there. Since then, the student representatives have maintained an active social media presence for NRHC through regular posts on our social media platforms highlighting the Call for Proposals and save the date reminders for NRHC 2023, among others. They are actively recruiting for the Student Activities Committee (Honors Director Nominations welcome and highly encouraged!) and are in the process of planning the student events at NRHC 2023. They will be hosting a series of student decompression chambers during the lead up to the 2023 conference, the first of which was held on November 2.

Respectfully submitted,

Zachary Aidala, NRHC Vice President

On behalf of Student Representatives Derek Stuart, Angela Steiber, and Natalea Hillen

Faculty Representatives' Report

Submitted by: Amy McMillan and Gwen Kay

Honors Decompression Chamber

The Faculty Representatives will host an Honors Decompression Chamber in November about the benefits of NRHC. The next one will be held in the Spring 2023 semester prior to the annual conference.

NRHC 2023 Conference

1. The Faculty Representatives continue to plan the Big Picture Discussion and Consultants' Corner for the 2023 annual conference. The Big Picture discussion will be held on the evening of Thursday, March 30. Potential topics include:
 - a. Promoting citizenship/creating community in honors
 - b. Building and promoting student resiliency
 - c. How honors directors have navigated dealing with underprepared students/changing standards in honors

2. In addition to a session on Beginning in Honors, the Consultants' Corner will consider additional sessions that could address:
 - a. Increasing student resiliency/intrinsic motivation
 - b. Value of Honors for your institution and for the students involved
 - c. Engaging students in and out of the classroom
 - d. Budget – how to manage student engagement on a small budget
 - e. Retention of Honors students

The Faculty Representatives are eager to solicit feedback on these topics (and would welcome other suggestions) and would be grateful for any volunteers that would be willing to lead a session for the Consultants' Corner.

3. The Faculty Representatives will also continue Darryl's attempt to identify and connect Honors "experts" as peer mentors to Honors "newbies" by having an Honors Peer mentoring meeting. Time TBD!

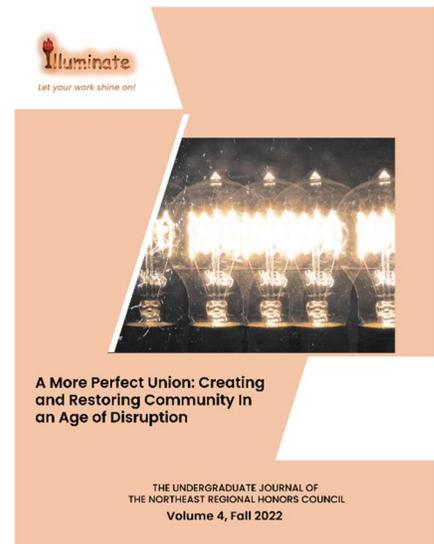
Illuminate Update

The 2022 Edition of *Illuminate* is online!

www.illuminatenrhc.com

Thank you to the 2022 *Illuminate* Editorial Board:

- Zachary Aidala, Bloomfield College
- Autumn Barszczkowski, Point Park University
- Matt Baran, SUNY Buffalo
- Xarielle Blanchette, Monroe College
- Chris Brittain, Rutgers University-Camden
- AnnMarie DelliPizzi, Dominican College
- Kyle Dineen, Frederick Community College
- Helen Fallon, Point Park University
- Irina Ellison, Mercy College
- Kathryn M. MacDonald, Monroe College
- Amy McMillian, SUNY Buffalo
- Darryl Peterkin, Morgan State University
- Alyssa Politi, Mercy College
- Tanya Radford, Dominican College
- Jade Rhoads, Thiel College
- Briana Stephenson, Molloy College
- Bruce Wigutow, Monroe College



Submissions are now open for the 2023 edition. Please read the submission guidelines carefully.

All undergraduate honors students and recent alumni of member institutions are invited to submit their research or creative projects to be considered for publication in the third volume of *Illuminate*. Each submission should be original and not be published in any other regional or national honors publication.

All submissions are double-blind, peer-reviewed. A student is limited to no more than two submissions for each edition of the journal.

Each submission should include a completed application, [which can be found here](#). While identifying information should be included on the application, **please remove any identifying information from the actual submission, including name, co-authors, e-mail, faculty mentor and institution.** Do not include any identifying information in the file names. All text submissions should be in the form of an editable document, like Microsoft Word. PDF files are not acceptable.

Students are encouraged to submit works that are connected to the 2023 NRHC Conference Theme—*Building Resilience from Tragedy—Understanding Hate, Violence, Loss, and Reconciliation*. Students may read more about the theme by clicking [here](#).

GUIDELINES

Academic Work Guidelines

The academic disciplines that are accepted include:

- Business, Economics, and Technology
- Education
- History, Politics, and Culture
- Language, Literature, and Philosophy
- Natural Sciences, Psychology, and Allied Health
- Media Studies and the Arts
- Social Sciences (Sociology, Anthropology, Archaeology, Geography, and Jurisprudence)
- Honors Education and Practices

For further description on each of these "strands" as they relate to the 2022 NRHC Conference, please click [here](#).

Research papers are limited to a **maximum of 5000 words, not including references**. Each paper should include a synopsis or abstract, limited to a maximum of 250 words. References should be formatted in either APA or MLA style, depending on the standard for the discipline. Submissions should be double spaced with a size 12 Times New Roman font.

Submissions must include a clear statement of purpose and will be evaluated based on content, analysis, organization, grammar, spelling and formatting.

All digital images should be submitted as jpeg files with a high resolution of at least 300 dpi. Images can be in black and white or color. For images that have been altered in Photoshop or any other program, both the original and altered image should be submitted. Images embedded in documents are not acceptable.

Please note that while for an NRHC conference, students create poster files via PowerPoint/other software or create a slideshow presentation, these files **are not eligible for submission to the journal**. Only research papers, reports, theses, etc. are eligible as academic entries to the journal.

Creative Work Guidelines

The following types of creative projects can be accepted:

- Photography
- Poetry

- Short Fiction
- Creative Nonfiction/Essay
- Fine Art
- Illustrations

Creative works should include a title and an artist's statement, limited to no more than 250 words. All digital images should be submitted as jpeg files with a high resolution of at least 300 dpi. Images can be in black and white or color. For images that have been altered in Photoshop or any other program, both the original and altered image should be submitted. Images embedded in documents are not acceptable.

Any style of poetry can be submitted.

Short fiction is limited to **a maximum of 5000 words**, double spaced, size 12 Times New Roman font.

Essays are limited to **a maximum of 1500 words**, double spaced, size 12 Times New Roman font.

SEND US YOUR SUBMISSIONS

Please click [here](#) to submit your work for consideration to *Illuminate's* 2023 edition.

The deadline for submissions to the 2022 edition is Sunday, May 21 at 11:59 p.m. EST.

Spring 2023 NRHC Board Elections

Join the NRHC Board! Nominations and Elections!

Please do consider running for a position, and/or encourage your students to run. This work is extremely meaningful insofar as it directly benefits honors students in the region by providing them with professional, academic and experiential opportunities. Further, for those of you needing external service for tenure and promotion purposes, please consider that Executive Board service is a gratifying and meaningful way to boost your CV.

If you are (or if your student is) interested in running for one of the following Executive Board positions, please send me the required candidacy information, which includes a candidate's statement and a headshot by Close of Business on Tuesday, May 31.

Student candidates must secure a letter from their directors affirming program/institutional commitment to support travel expenses to attend the three meetings of the executive board (July site planning meeting, fall business meeting during the NCHC conference, and the Albany conference). This letter must be included with the candidate's statement and headshot. Please note that NRHC will provide up to \$1000 in travel reimbursements to each student representative.

Elected candidates are strongly encouraged to attend the summer planning meeting (date TBD), Elected candidates are also expected to attend the upcoming NCHC conference and attendance at the NRHC conference is required. Each executive member receives a stipend.

Note: If you wish to nominate someone else, please secure that person's agreement to run before submitting his/her name to me at this email address.

The following positions are up this election period:

Vice President (1 open position): Elected for a one-year term and shall be a member of the faculty or administration of any member institution in the Region. The Vice President shall succeed automatically to the office of President-Elect upon the election and installation of the new Vice President. The Vice President shall succeed to the office of President-Elect should that office become vacant. The president-elect co-chairs the organizing of the annual regional conference; the service of vice-president, president-elect, president, and immediate past president is a four-year commitment to the region.

Faculty Board Representative (1 open position): Elected to a two-year term by a vote of the membership of the Region. Faculty Board Representatives may serve no more than one consecutive term.

Student Board Representatives (2 open positions): Elected to a one-year term by a vote of the membership of the Region. Student Board Representatives may be elected to additional one-year term. The two student representatives plan three key student socials (Thursday, Friday and Saturday

evenings) of the conference, advertise to students, advise students on what to expect, maintain the region's Facebook page with text and photos, and may coordinate with local student volunteers to help with City-as-Text, the registration table, and other tasks as needed.

Executive Secretary (1 open position): Elected to a 3-year term, the Secretary is expected to take minutes, maintain the NRHC document repository, and regularly monitor the NRHC Gmail account – sending membership wide emails and responding to queries.

Web Coordinator (1 open position): Elected to a 3-year term, the Web Coordinator is expected to have a facility learning new technologies and a working knowledge of web design and logistics. The Web Coordinator is responsible for the creation and maintenance of the Council's website, the Call for Proposals, and the Conference Registration process.

You can find the NRHC Constitution and By-Laws here: <https://www.nrhchonors.com/constitution>

2023 Conference Theme

Building Resilience From Tragedy: Understanding Hate, Violence, Loss, and Reconciliation

“Forgiveness and reconciliation are not just ethereal, spiritual, other-worldly activities. They have to do with the real world. They are realpolitik, because in a very real sense, without forgiveness, there is no future.”

— Archbishop Desmond Tutu

"Grief and resilience live together."

— Michelle Obama

Grief. Forgiveness. Reconciliation. Resilience. The path from grief to resilience is neither straight nor the same for everyone. But the reward for perseverance is the ability to transform challenges into successes.

In this age of instantaneous information, we must ask ourselves whether hate and violence are more prevalent, or are we simply aware of such incidents more quickly. Perhaps that question matters far less than how we confront, overcome, and learn from these horrific episodes.

Understanding the origins and effects of tragedy and resilience is not the province of a single academic discipline or speciality. Indeed, this effort demands an interdisciplinary approach and insight from every corner of human knowledge and endeavor. The Devil may be in the details, but intriguing answers are waiting to be uncovered in laboratories, libraries, theaters, and the relationships between universities and their communities.

Why Pittsburgh? Known as the Steel City and the City Of Bridges, Pittsburgh has recent experience with the unspeakable violence that can be ignited by hate and the long and painful process of healing. On the morning of 27 October 2018, a lone gunman motivated by anti-Semitism carried out the worst attack on the Jewish community in American history when he entered the Tree of Life Synagogue and killed eleven worshippers and wounded six more. In a matter of minutes, a vibrant and close-knit community was shattered, and Pittsburgh was added to an ever-expanding list of cities affected by a peculiarly American epidemic of mass shootings, including Sandy Hook, CT (2012), Charleston, SC (2015), Parkland, FL (2017), Buffalo, NY (2022), and Uvalde, TX (2022).

Thus, it is entirely appropriate that Pittsburgh will be the host city for NRHC's 2023 Conference and its tradition of encouraging the rising generation of young scholars to explore uncomfortable questions. The metaphors are irresistible: steel is the symbol of resilience and bridges bring together communities and ideas.

We invite you over the next several days to take your seat at our sumptuous roundtable of ideas and engage in meaningful conversations with your fellow Conference participants. We challenge you, furthermore, to return to your institutions and communities and transform metaphor into action.

Planning for 2023 Conference

Dates & Location

The conference will take place from Thursday, March 30, 2023 to Sunday, April 2, 2023.

Our conference hotel is the [Pittsburgh Sheraton Station Square](#) (300 W Station Square Dr, Pittsburgh, PA 15219). The room rate per night is \$179.00 (single-quad room occupancy).

Registration Information

Registration will open in January 2023:

- Early-bird Registration- \$325/person
- Regular Registration- \$335/person
- On-site Registration - \$450/person

Call for Proposals

The Call for Proposals is now open until Monday, November 14th. [Click here for the CFP System.](#)

Important Dates - Mark Your Calendars!

1. Monday, November 7: Proposal Prep Session via Zoom for interested presenters
2. Monday, November 14: CFP Closes
3. Friday, December 16: Conference Proposal Notifications Sent
4. Friday, January 6: Conference Registration Opens & Hotel Block Opens

Limited Virtual Option

This year's conference will include several virtual panel sessions prior to the in-person conference. Member institutions that are unable to attend in-person can register virtually for \$325.

Registration includes:

- Access to recorded video of the Keynote Speaker, Author Talk, Presidential Address, and Awards Ceremony 2-3 weeks after the conference.
- Opportunity to present in one of three formats – live paper presentation, live performance or short film, live art gallery presentation. These panel sessions will take place 2 weeks prior to the in-person conference and can be attended by all conference attendees.
- Ability to submit pre-recorded Open Mic Night entries
- The opportunity to maintain involvement in the Student Activities Committee

- Access to attend Student Decompression Chambers and any virtual conference programming
- Eligibility for awards and scholarships

Health and Safety Protocol

Registration for NRHC 2023 may require proof of Covid-19 vaccination uploaded to the registration system and/or a negative Covid-19 PCR or rapid test. NRHC reserves the right to adjust health and safety guidelines to correspond with CDC recommendations. In the event that proof of vaccination or a Covid-19 test are required, failure to produce the required documents may result in removal from the conference without refund.

NRHC Member Involvement

Diversity and Inclusion Committee

We are seeking volunteers to serve on the Diversity and Inclusion Committee. Any interested administrator, faculty member, staff member, or student of an NRHC member institution should email northeastregionalhonorscouncil@gmail.com.

Chaired by Irina Ellison and Darryl Peterkin

Strategic Plan Subcommittee

The goal of the strategic planning subcommittee will be to identify gaps between NRHC's current state and desired future state, and then develop strategies and goals to close those gaps. The group will be asked to present their progress at the Business Meeting at NRHC in April 2022 and present their final strategic plan at the Business Meeting at NCHC in Fall 2022.

Chaired by Kathryn MacDonald (kmacdonald@monroecollege.edu)

Illuminate Editorial Board

The Illuminate Editorial Board works throughout the year to review student academic and creative submissions and to provide valuable feedback. If you would like to serve as a member of the Editorial Board, please contact Kat MacDonald at kmacdonald@monroecollege.edu. We will hold a virtual meeting sometime in November to discuss strategy for the next edition as well as think about other ways we can keep the journal fresh throughout the year.

Kathryn MacDonald, Editor in Chief (kmacdonald@monroecollege.edu)

Peer Mentorship Program

We are pleased to announce the launch of the NRHC Peer Mentorship Program (PMP), an initiative designed with you in mind. The goals of the PMP are to strengthen the bonds of community between honors professionals at our member institutions and to provide an organizational mechanism for sharing ideas and experience that could enhance both professional development and student success.

If you have any questions, please contact Rivka L. Glaser, Ph.D. (RGLASER@stevenson.edu), the creative mind behind the Peer Mentorship Program or Darryl L. Peterkin, Ph.D. (darryl.peterkin@morgan.edu), NRHC President-Elect and 2022 Conference Co-Chair. Queries can also be directed here to northeastregionalhonorscouncil@gmail.com, and your inquiry will be passed along.

Chaired by Darryl Peterkin, Amy McMillan, and Gwen Kay

Awards and Contests

This is a reminder to check the NRHC website for details on the following awards and contests:

Minority Scholarship

NRHC members are encouraged to submit applications for Minority Scholarships to help cover the cost of conference-related expenses for students who are presenting at the NRHC conference. NRHC will award up to twenty (20) scholarships each year. The Scholarship will pay for the student's conference registration fee and \$50 directly to the student for other conference-related expenses.

Partners in the Parks Scholarship

Partners in the Parks is an experiential learning program sponsored by Southern Utah University in cooperation with the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) and the U.S. National Parks Service. Partners in the Parks organizes projects at national parks across the country, offering unique opportunities for collegiate honors students and faculty to visit areas of the American landscape noted for their beauty, significance, and lasting value. Each year, NRHC subsidizes the costs for students to attend Partners in the Parks.

Student of the Year Awards

The Northeast Regional Honors Council annually recognizes two students as Student of the Year – one from a two-year institution and one from a four-year institution. The two students selected for an NRHC Student of the Year Award must have demonstrated scholastic excellence and must have made a significant impact on their honors program. The award recognizes academic excellence, outstanding leadership skills, socially engaged contributions, and innovations that the students have shown at their home institution. In addition, the winners are role models for other students in their honors programs and have demonstrated commitment that is beyond their peers. The selected students might also have worked to engage honors ideals outside their home institutions through participation in intercollegiate projects, NRHC and/or NCHC conferences, service to their communities, and more.

Honors Professional of the Year Awards

The Northeast Regional Honors Council is pleased to announce that it will recognize at least one outstanding honors professional this year. Students and colleagues alike are encouraged to nominate honors directors, honors faculty, or other honors staff members for this recognition. To qualify for this recognition, the honors professional must continually demonstrate a dedication to honors education at his/her honors program/college. This individual is passionate about honors, an advocate for students, and embodies the values of his/her honors program/college. The honors professional might also have worked to engage honors ideals outside their home institutions through book or article publications, participation in intercollegiate projects, NRHC and/or NCHC conferences, service to their communities, and more.

Publication Contest

Any current member of NRHC is invited to participate if your honors program or college has its own publication. Valid submissions include newsletters, magazines, or journals that are produced in-print, electronically, or both. Both student-run publications and staff-run publications are eligible.

Publications that celebrate news in your honors program/college are eligible. News “bites” may include but are not limited to activities in honors, profiles of people in honors, updates, events, awards, community happenings, and more. However, publications that include more “feature-length” work, whether fiction or nonfiction, are also welcome. Publications can also include student artwork, photography, or essays that present student research. Ultimately, all publications are welcome so long as they are produced by the honors program/college.

The publication submitted must have been published between April 2022 and now. Entries with a publication date prior to April 2022 are not eligible.