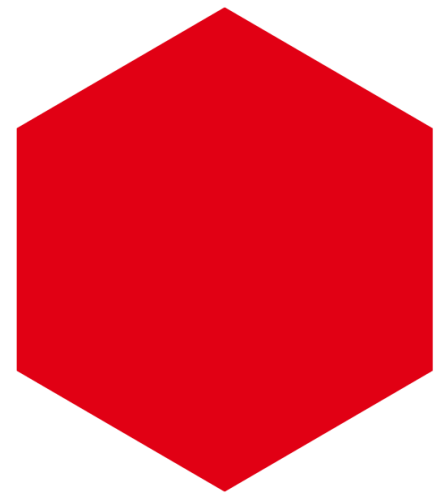




 NRHC  
2025



# ANNUAL REPORT

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[WWW.NRHCHONORS.COM](http://WWW.NRHCHONORS.COM)

## President's Report

March 2025

Dear Members of the Northeast Regional Honors Council,

Welcome! We gather in Harrisburg, PA for our annual Conference. This year we have close to 400 participants, and are proud to host students as they present their scholarly research, creative works, and co-curricular honors endeavors. As usual, we also have robust student-centered events that encourage students to network with peers (and hopefully have some fun along the way). We thank you for your continued feedback and support as we work to provide a seamless and robust conference experience.

Welcome to Harrisburg as we explore Civic Engagement at the Crossroads.

Best Regards,

Zachary Aidala, Ph.D.

President and 2025 Conference Co-Chair

# Business Meeting Agenda



**NRHC Business Meeting @ Northeast Regional Honors Council Conference**  
Harrisburg, PA  
Sunday, March 30, 2025

## **Establish Quorum**

Welcome and Call to Order	Zachary Aidala
Approval of Fall 2024 Business Meeting Minutes	Kathryn MacDonald

## **Reports of Officers and Board Members**

President's Report	Zachary Aidala
Executive Treasurer's Report	Michael Tasto
Executive Secretary's Report	Kathryn MacDonald
Web Coordinator Report	Tanya Radford
2025 Conference Report	Jessica McCort
Faculty Representatives Report	Gwen Kay and AnnMarie DelliPizzi
Student Representatives Report	Brooke Griffith, Rhea Mehta, and Amanda Olachea
Report on NRHC Journal – <i>Illuminate</i>	Kathryn MacDonald

## **New Business**

Spring 2025 NRHC Board Elections	Jessica McCort
Future Conference Sites	Michael Tasto and Chris Brittain
Theme & Planning for #NRHC2026	Hillary Sackett-Taylor
Registration Pricing	Zachary Aidala and Mike Tasto
Chaperones and Emergency Contacts	Zachary Aidala and Jessica McCort
NRHC Member Involvement	Zachary Aidala and Jessica McCort
Other Business	Open Forum

## **Adjournment**

## Fall 2024 Business Meeting Minutes



**NRHC Business Meeting Minutes**  
National Collegiate Honors Council Conference  
Kansas City, MO  
Friday, November 1, 2024 – 5:00 PM

### **Establish Quorum**

#### **Welcome and Call to Order**

**Zachary Aidala**

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m. by Zachary Aidala, NRHC President.

#### **Approval of Spring 2024 Business Meeting Minutes**

**Kathryn MacDonald**

- Natalie Pena, Post University motioned to accept the minutes.
- Michelle Salvador, Post University seconded the motion.
- There was no discussion.
- 0 rejections; 1 abstention; all others approved.

### **Officer and Board Member Reports**

#### **President's Report**

**Zachary Aidala**

- For our 2024 conference, we had 405 attendees from 58 institutions – largest conference since 2019!!
- We made our way back since the pandemic.
- Zak didn't go into too many specifics – Panel Discussion was on Thursday night surrounding AI. The second day of the conference was CAT, and we had our banquet that evening by Gretchin Sorin (Friday evening). On our third day, Saturday, we held all of the student research presentations, and Dr. Marcella McCoy-Deh gave the Presidential Address. We also held our Awards Ceremony on Sunday morning.
- Conference feedback continues to be fairly positive. We've gotten really strong feedback from students, faculty, and staff and we'd like to continue having that happen. If there are ever any concerns, before, during, or after the conference—please bring to our attention so we can address.
- Heads Up Changes for 2025 Conferences
  - o First and most importantly for directors and students, the CFP will close on November 18. We are not going to do a deadline extension this year since doing an extension does have an impact on the process of getting our notifications out.
  - o Another thing that has been an issue at NRHC, in particular, is the Awards Ceremony. The Awards Ceremony is a really important aspect of the conference – recognizing faculty, students, publications and we've had recent issues with this event not being well attended.

We've also had issues that people are receiving awards and people are not there – this is an important thing and we want people to celebrate the work and the achievements. We really want to encourage the membership to factor this into their budgets and travel plans. We will be fortifying the Awards Ceremony, adding more awards (like Student Event Awards). You might not know if you're winning, so we want everyone to attend.

- Allison McCartney of Towson University suggested that we will do photos and having folks say – so having that proof for directors to show would be helpful.
- Kat MacDonald mentioned that we will also honor all scholarship winners and nominees.
- Nominees will also receive certificates for awards, a practice that we began in 2024.
- A suggestion was made about having a more professional background – we will look into a Step and Repeat.
- Someone also suggested having more professional photography done during the Awards event, especially, that is made available to the attendees after the event.
- o Art Show will be a separate call for submissions since submitting to the Art Show is a separate event. There is also going to be a new strand for The Arts. There are presentations that surround The Arts, so we are encouraging proposals across all presentation formats to elevate the academic perspective of the Arts.
- o We will have a Saturday Networking Breakfast alongside the Consultant's Corner Breakfast. Posters will be moved to midday on Saturday. Allison McCartney (Towson) asked about networking topics for students, but we are still soliciting ideas and volunteers! Hillary Sackett-Taylor mentioned we discussed adding a graduate school prep as a topic. If any members have career development and can help boost that, it would be wonderful.
- o We are working on our Strategic Plan – Hillary Sackett-Taylor is reigniting this initiative. If you are interested in being part of the conversation, please let Hillary know. Hillary participated in the iSpark institute by NCHC in the summer, and she has lots of great ways of updating the strategic plan and inform on where we want to take the region.

## **2024 Conference Report**

**Zachary Aidala, on behalf of Tanya Radford**

- Tanya Radford could not be with us. Our proposals went up by 9% since 2023 into 2024.
- We've seen an increase in roundtable proposals as opposed to academic panels, so we will factor that in based on our submissions.
- The Web Coordinator's Report is below for reference:

One important aspect of the Web Coordinator position is to work with our vendor YesEvents on the annual conference's CFP site and conference registration. In 2024, we again opted not to use an electronic conference schedule and bill institutions for their membership to minimize costs.

The following conference report provides information about proposal submissions (as aggregate and then broken into categories), conference registrants, attendee type and special dietary requests.

Special thanks to Nichole Ballard of YesEvents for support and speedy responses to queries!

## Conference report

### Conference Proposals

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Proposals completed:	306	272
Proposals withdrawn:	6	4
Proposals accepted:	300	272
	^9%	v8%

### Registrations

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Conference Registrants:	405	380
Scholarships awarded:	20	13
# institutions registered	58	58

### Submissions by Presentation Type

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Academic Panel:	40%	47%
Poster:	34%	33%
Roundtable:	22%	12%
Art Gallery:	1%	4%
Perf. Arts/Film Showcase:	1%	3%
Idea Exchange:	1%	1%

### Submissions by Strand

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Social Sciences:	21%	24%
Mathematics, Sciences, & Health:	25%	22%
History, Politics & Culture :	10%	17%
Language, Literature & Philosophy:	6%	9%

Business, Economics & Technology:	13%	10%
Education:	9%	7%
Media & the Arts:	7%	4%
*Other	9%	7%

\*Idea Exchange, Honors Ed & Practices, Art Gallery, Performing Arts Showcase

#### Registrant Attendee Type

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
First year	10%	9%
Sophomore	18%	16%
Junior	18%	13%
Senior	33%	36%
Faculty	15%	15%
Administrator	6%	7%
Other	>1%	4%

#### Dietary requests

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
No restrictions	82%	81%
Vegetarian	5%	7%
Vegan	2%	1%
Kosher	>1%	1%
Gluten Free	2%	2%
Other	9%	8%
Iftar	6%	5%

## Executive Treasurer's Report

Mike Tasto

- Mike Tasto addressed the room, and went over the highlights:
  - o Our increases in dues and registration has helped us open a CD in which we deposited \$100K and will yield \$4K that can go directly back to the membership in the form of scholarships and other funding.
  - o Harrisburg for 2025 is very promising financially, like Albany.
  - o The numbers don't reflect that what we did in Covid (rollover account so institutions can use their funds in future – we still have a \$10K rollover balance – 14 schools compose of this number). These funds will not be available for use/refund after this year, and a majority of these schools have not attended the conference since Covid.
  - o We paid out \$48K over the last four years to keep that rollover going.
  - o We have prepaid \$15K to the Harrisburg for 2025.
  - o Despite these updates, we can still pay our expenditures and make investments. Mike's goal six years ago was to increase our profits to \$1 million, but we are now moving in the right direction.
  - o We have officer and board insurance. We also get event insurance for the conference. And we also have every attendee sign a liability waiver to protect the organization even if something happens offsite.
  - o Tax returns haven't been filed, a master's student at SNHU is helping us file.
  - o We've maintained conference registration for four years at \$325 and we are hopeful to maintain this rate for 2026. We are seeking proposals from Cambridge, MA and Providence, RI as potential sites. Our negotiation of our own contract saves us up to \$10K.
  - o The hotel rates have also been kept low because we are targeting smaller cities like Albany and Harrisburg – Mike hopes we can continue this trend in future as we find second tier cities.
  - o Our break-even numbers are 350-400 registrants; we do negotiate hard with the hotels to do our own A/V (savings of \$15K to \$20K per year).
  - o Other ways we've saved is investing in a karaoke machine that we can use every year instead of paying hotel for equipment or hiring a vendor.
  - o Hotel Refunds – we have to pay our bill up front and normally we always overpay. But when we get the final bill – we find that they owe us a credit year after year. In Albany, we were overcharged for breakfast. It is meticulous work to go over the bill in order to receive the refunds. Mike believes that is probably happening to lots of organizations who aren't looking at the final bills. Albany still owes us over \$6K in refunds – it has not come through yet. Mike has been following up.
  - o Allison McCartney called to thank Mike for his diligence.
  - o Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report—motion was made Allison McCartney, Towson University; seconded by Srujana Kanjala, Community College of Allegheny County; all in presence accepted the report.

## Student Representatives Report

Hillary Sackett-Taylor, on behalf of the  
Student Representatives

- Hillary Sackett-Taylor gave the report for the Student Representatives. The students wrote a letter that is in the meeting materials. Hillary read the letter to the attendees.
- A round of applause followed.
- Here is the letter for reference:

Dear Honors Deans, Directors, and Students:

I hope you're all doing well! As student representatives from the Northeast Regional Honors Council (NRHC), we are thrilled to provide an updates on the student events at the upcoming 2025 NRHC Conference, which we hope to make one of our most exciting and engaging events yet. This year, the conference is scheduled to take place in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania from March 27 to March 30th. We are Amanda Olachea (Dominican University New York), Brooke Griffith (Thiel College), and Rhheaa Mehta (University of Pittsburgh); we look forward to presenting our ideas.

This year, we've made significant strides in curating a diverse and enriching program. The agenda will feature many groundbreaking keynote speakers, interactive workshops, and student-led panels that tap into the interdisciplinary spirit of NRHC. We're working to provide a platform where students, like myself, can showcase their research, engage in meaningful, multidisciplinary discussions, and showcase their creativity. We're particularly excited to emphasize professional development this year, with workshops designed to hone leadership skills and explore future career paths.

As student representatives, our primary goal is to create an environment conducive to personal connection and growth. With the help of the Student Activities Committee (SAC), we moderate all of the student events, offering attendees a chance to unwind, network, and have fun after a full day of academic sessions.

Our first night will rouse the competitive (and teamworking) spirit of the students with a Trivia Night with a range of categories, from pop culture to history. Our next event will be an art showcase to celebrate the creativity of the students and the wonderful work that they create. Then, we have Karaoke Night, which is always a highlight of the conference for many students. It lets the students showcase their musical skills in a low-pressure environment and bring the community together with songs and laughter. And, last but certainly not least, our final night will be the Gala Night, with a secret garden theme, to highlight the growth and achievements of the students as they celebrate their last night at the conference.

The 2025 NRHC Conference will be more than just an event—it will be an experience that empowers students to connect, share, and learn in ways that are more meaningful than ever before. The balance of both academic exploration and personal connections (aided by the student events) will make this a a conference with a lasting impact on the entire NRHC community. I truly believe that it will inspire us all to think bigger and push the boundaries of what we can achieve together.

We are confident that it will be an event where students and faculty alike will leave feeling inspired, connected, and ready to take on the challenges of our ever-evolving academic landscape. If you have any questions or need more details about what's planned, feel free to reach out. I look forward to seeing you there and working together to make this the best NRHC Conference yet!

Best regards,

Amanda, Brooke, and Rhheaa

**Faculty Representatives Report**

**Gwen Kay**

- The Faculty Representatives could not be at the meeting. Zachary Aidala gave their report on their behalf:
  - o **Minority Scholarship Review**
    - Reviewed 28 Scholarship applicants and recommended funding for 20. All applicants were very strong. We prioritized one from each school.
  - o **NRHC Conference**
    - Reviewed Proposals for meeting program
    - Planned the Big Picture Discussion and Consultants' Corner for the 2024 annual conference.
    - Big Picture: networking and AI.
    - Consultants' Corner: sharing strategies for success.
  - o **Upcoming**
    - Assist in reviewing for *Illuminate*

### **Report on NRHC Journal – *Illuminate***

**Kathryn MacDonald**

- Kat MacDonald gave the update.
- Volume 6 is now live with 29 pieces published. We unfortunately did not have anyone run for the new post of Publications Officer in the spring, so Kat continued to helm the journal for this edition.
- She noted that our acceptance rate is around 70%, and asked that members look at the data provided in the meeting materials, since there are usually a number of students who do not persist through the editorial process—this was the case this year. As a point of comparison, the NCHC journal *URCA* only accepts 9% of submissions received.
- Discussions at NCHC have suggested that perhaps a Student Editorial Board and collaborations between regional publications and *URCA* might be forthcoming.
- Kat asked that everyone consider volunteering for the *Illuminate* Editorial Board—sustaining the journal will not be possible without volunteers (and a Publications Officer).
- In order to do more with *Illuminate*, like multiple publishing opportunities per year, we need volunteers.
- We did get a question about why a printable PDF wasn't included with Volume 6 – and it is simply because Kat didn't have the time to produce one.
- Allison McCartney suggested having a one-pager that would inform faculty and solicit for editorial boards, etc. Kat will work on such a document and circulate to the membership.

### **Sponsorship**

**Zachary Aidala on behalf of Chris Brittain**

- Chris Brittain is working diligently on the Sponsorship initiative.
- Sponsorship flyers were distributed to all of the vendors and the graduate schools in the northeast region at NCHC.
- The sponsorship materials are in the meeting materials.

### **New Business**

#### **NRHC Membership Involvement**

**Zachary Aidala**

- Committee membership is great not only for directors but for also faculty member.

- Zachary Aidala highlighted all of the committees that we have a need for volunteers.
  - o Susan Dinan, Adelphi University, thanked Kat for her work at NCHC including the networking and “Pathways for Honors” booklet. The most efficient party girl she’s ever met.

**Spring 2025 NRHC Board Positions and Elections**

**Zachary Aidala, Jessica McCort**

- Zachary Aidala reviewed the positions that are open for the 2025 election:
  - o Vice President – 3 year term
    - Hillary and Jess
  - o Faculty Representative – 2-year term
  - o Student Representatives (3 open positions) – 1-year term
  - o Publications Officer (conditional 2-year term)

**Theme and Planning for NRHC 2025**

**Zachary Aidala, Jessica McCort**

- Jessica McCort, President-Elect, gave the updates.
- We have been planning the upcoming conference and are excited about what we will be able to offer.
- Our theme is “Civic Engagement at the Crossroads” (riffing on the importance of railways, waterways, etc. to Harrisburg). We do want students to engage with the theme, but this is not mandatory (encouraged but not required).
- The pricing and dates and other logistics were covered earlier in the meeting.
- Speakers:
  - o Lenwood Sloane (Keynote) - Lenwood Sloan is the executive director of the Commonwealth Monument Project in Harrisburg, PA.
  - o Frank Gumbine (CAT) - Frank Grumbine is the Central Pennsylvania Community Preservation Coordinator for the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office.
  - o Megan Caruso (Thursday night) - Megan Caruso is a Harrisburg-based artist, creative director, and public art producer. Her career and interests involve the intersection of art, community and placemaking. In 2014, Ms. Caruso co-founded Sprocket Mural Works, a non-profit organization that has produced hundreds of public art pieces, including 50 large-scale murals that form the Harrisburg Mural Trail.
- Service Opportunity is in place to volunteer with Downtown Daily Bread to volunteer in the pantry, prepare lunch, and sort donations. We are looking for another service opportunity to engage more students.
- We need more volunteers with Local Host – Elizabethtown College has agreed to partner (thank you!) but we need more volunteers! Please reach out to Jess at [jmccort@pointpark.edu](mailto:jmccort@pointpark.edu) if you are interested.

**Future Conference Sites**

**Mike Tasto**

- This was covered earlier in the meeting.

**Other Business**

**Open Forum**

- Lancaster, PA Place and Text Opportunity presented by Jean-Paul Benowitz from Elizabethtown College

## **Adjournment**

- A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Allison McCartney, Towson University.
- Marcella McCoy-Deh, Thomas Jefferson University, seconded.
- All approved.
- The meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

# Executive Treasurer's Report

Northeast Regional Honors Council - Financial Report (March, 2025)

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Conference Statistics:	Cambridge	Pittsburgh	Providence	Baltimore	Albany -CKL	Virtual	Philadelphia	Pittsburgh	Albany	Harrisburg
Proposals	483	429	381	465	429	240	330	275	299	277
Accepted	385	358	325	411	404	240	330	275	298	272
<b>Paid/Total Registrants</b>	<b>602</b>	<b>528</b>	<b>521</b>	<b>564</b>	<b>479</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>403</b>
Rate of Accepted to Paid Reg.	1.564	1.475	1.603	1.372	1.186	1.708	1.209	1.364	1.396	1.482
Acceptance Rate	79.7%	83.4%	85.3%	88.4%	94.2%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	99.7%	98.2%

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Contracted Room Nights	Cambridge**	Pittsburgh	Providence	Baltimore	Albany	Virtual	Philadelphia	Pittsburgh	Albany	Harrisburg
Rooms (Wed)	4	0	2	2	0	0	2	0	0	0
Rooms (Thurs)	187	148	158	200	0	0	137	153	163	157
Rooms (Fri)	212	160	180	225	0	0	186	160	201	203
Rooms (Sat)	187	152	165	200	0	0	159	154	193	198
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>627</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>484</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>557</b>	<b>558</b>

\*\* Missing Cambridge Contract - projected = actual Pickup.

Addendum - Rooms (Wed)		2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Addendum - Rooms (Thurs)		58	48	23	0	0	0	0	0	0
Addendum - Rooms (Fri)		73	53	32	0	0	0	0	0	0
Addendum - Rooms (Sat)		54	41	32	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sub-Total	-	187	142	87	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total ROOM NIGHTS</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>647</b>	<b>647</b>	<b>714</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>484</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>557</b>	<b>558</b>
80% Guarantee		518	518	571	0	0	440	400	440	459
Actual Pickup	590	609	604				484	467	557	558
Room Price		\$ 159	\$ 169	\$ 179	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 199	\$ 179	\$ 179	\$ 179
<b>Hotel Room Revenue</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 102,873</b>	<b>\$ 109,343</b>	<b>\$ 127,806</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 96,316</b>	<b>\$ 83,593</b>	<b>\$ 99,703</b>	<b>\$ 99,882</b>

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2024
Bank Balance	Gettysburg	Cambridge	Pittsburgh	Providence	Baltimore	Albany -CKL'd	Virtual	Philadelphia	Pittsburgh	Albany	Albany****
Date	July 1, 2015	July 1, 2016	July 1, 2017	July 1, 2018	July 1, 2019	July 1, 2020	July 1, 2021	July 1, 2022	July 1, 2023	July 1, 2024	March 23, 2025
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$ 123,747</b>	<b>\$ 125,831</b>	<b>\$ 102,930</b>	<b>\$ 154,936</b>	<b>\$ 169,177</b>	<b>\$ 196,493</b>	<b>\$ 161,184</b>	<b>\$ 139,701</b>	<b>\$ 147,592</b>	<b>\$ 167,771</b>	<b>\$ 133,616</b>

\*\*\*\* Note: NRHC invested \$100,000 into a 4.5% CD - earning ~ \$5,000/year in interest. Also, we have prepaid \$25,000 at the Harrisburg Hilton, and received revenue from YesEvents (regist. System) early.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Profit/Loss:	Cambridge	Pittsburgh	Providence	Baltimore	Albany	Virtual	Philadelphia	Pittsburgh	Albany	Harrisburg
Net Revenue			\$ 130,766	\$ 192,624	\$ 16,927	\$ 47,428	\$ 146,617	\$ 139,040	\$ 152,684	\$ 145,601
Total Expenses			\$ 107,985	\$ 166,169	\$ 61,350	\$ 53,145	\$ 140,113	\$ 125,851	\$ 131,546	\$ 132,317
<b>Total Est. Profit/Loss</b>			<b>\$ 22,781</b>	<b>\$ 26,455</b>	<b>\$ (44,423)</b>	<b>\$ (5,717)</b>	<b>\$ 6,504</b>	<b>\$ 13,189</b>	<b>\$ 21,138</b>	<b>\$ 13,284</b>

Note: The Conf. Registration Fee is an Average. Most pay \$325, but late registrations pay more, and we have others that are \*free.  
(\*Free = Minority Scholarships, 10/20th registrant free, honorary-guest registrations, sponsors, and speakers.)

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Revenue:	Cambridge	Pittsburgh	Providence	Baltimore	Albany - Actual	Virtual	Philadelphia	Pittsburgh	Albany	Harrisburg
Conf. Registration Fee	\$ 225	\$ 225	\$ 230	\$ 295	Avg. = 282.6	Avg. = \$74.63	Avg. = \$310.77	Avg. = \$320	Avg. = \$293	Avg. = \$297
Paid/Total Registrants	602	528	521	564	479	410	399	375	416	403
Exp. Revenue	\$ 135,450	\$ 118,800	\$ 119,830	\$ 166,380	\$ 135,365	\$ 30,598	\$ 123,997	\$ 120,000	\$ 121,684	\$ 119,691
Other Revenue:	Cambridge	Pittsburgh	Providence	Baltimore	Albany	Virtual	Philadelphia	Pittsburgh	Albany	Harrisburg
\$20/Registration fee (175 refunded registrations)				\$ -	\$ 3,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Tri-fold's				\$ -	\$ 186	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Programs				\$ -	\$ 201	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Hotel F&B Rebate				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,680	\$ 9,340	\$ 11,140	\$ 11,160
Programs (Salisbury Univ)				\$ 2,088	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Transit Passes				\$ 760	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Misc. Income				\$ 5,045	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,660	\$ -
Uncashed Checks (2017)				\$ 6,850	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Sponsor - Monroe College				\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500	2-year Spnsr	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ -
Sponsor - NCHC				\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 1,000
Sponsor - Point Park Univ.				\$ 100	\$ -	\$ 250	2-year Spnsr	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Sponsor - Adelphi				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,500	\$ -
Sponsor - Bard				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ 450
Sponsor - Thomas Jefferson				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ 500
Sponsor - Towson University				\$ 250	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Sponsor - Millersville University				\$ 500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Sponsor - SOC				\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Sponsor - Monmouth University				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 250	\$ -	\$ -
Sponsor - Westfield St. University				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 250	\$ -	\$ -
Sponsor - Mercy College				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500	2-year Spnsr	\$ -	\$ -
Sponsor - Ramapo College				\$ 250	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Sponsor - St. Francis Univ.				\$ -	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Sponsor - Fund for Am. Studies				\$ -	\$ 250	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Sponsor - Nat'l Society for Leader				\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 500	2-year Spnsr	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Sponsor - NHU				\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,500	2-year Spnsr	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Sponsor - Salisbury Univ.				\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,500	2-year Spnsr	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Sponsor - Playfair				\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,500	2-year Spnsr	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Sponsor - Dominican Univ.				\$ -	\$ -	\$ 250	2-year Spnsr	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Sponsor - Morgan State Univ.				\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500	2-year Spnsr	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Sponsor - Univ. of Hartford				\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500	2-year Spnsr	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ -
Sponsor - PebblePad				\$ 250	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Sponsor - Catholic University				\$ 250	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Sponsor - NSCS				\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Sponsor - Alpha Lambda Delta				\$ 100	\$ 250	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Sponsorship - Total - ->			\$ 2,500	\$ 4,700	\$ 3,000	\$ 7,500	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,500	\$ 4,000	\$ 1,950
Other/Faculty/Student Registrations			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,470	\$ -	\$ -
Membership Dues			\$ 8,436	\$ 6,800	\$ 10,040	\$ 9,330	\$ 11,940	\$ 8,200	\$ 14,200	\$ 12,800
Total Other Revenue			\$ 10,936	\$ 26,244	\$ 16,927	\$ 16,830	\$ 22,620	\$ 19,040	\$ 31,000	\$ 25,910
Total Conf. Revenue			\$ 119,830	\$ 166,380	\$ 135,365	\$ 30,598	\$ 123,997	\$ 120,000	\$ 121,684	\$ 119,691
Total Revenue			\$ 130,766	\$ 192,624	\$ 152,292	\$ 47,428	\$ 146,617	\$ 139,040	\$ 152,684	\$ 145,601
Refunds for 31 Schools					\$ 48,700	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
No Check Received from 12 Schools					\$ 25,739	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Rollovers held for 2021					\$ 55,644	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Double Counted Dues subtraction					\$ 2,720	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Human Error in Excel (MTT)					\$ 2,562	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Net Revenue					\$ 16,927	\$ 47,428	\$ 146,617	\$ 139,040	\$ 152,684	\$ 145,601

Northeast Regional Honors Council - Financial Report (March, 2025)										
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
EXPENSES:	Cambridge	Pittsburgh	Providence	Baltimore	Albany - CXL'd	Virtual	Philadelphia	Pittsburgh	Albany	Harrisburg
** Hotel (Food & Beverage ++)			\$ 66,961	\$ 70,501	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 55,575	\$ 48,225	\$ 49,749	\$ 48,800
** Hotel (A/V)			\$ 10,105	\$ 6,585	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ 9,706	\$ 4,500	\$ 5,200
Interpreters			\$ 5,375	\$ 4,181	\$ -	\$ 4,000	\$ 10,500	\$ 4,278	\$ 8,500	\$ 6,500
Various Supplies/Printing for Signage								\$ 3,000	\$ 900	\$ 1,000
Scholarships (PIP)/Minority Scholarships (cash)			\$ 800	\$ 1,250	\$ 1,200	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 750	\$ 1,000	\$ 650
Purchase: A/V, projectors, bulbs and Cables (Karaoke)			\$ -	\$ 6,482	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,500	\$ 550	\$ 1,250
Purchase: Acer Chromebooks and Misc. Cables (AV Stuff)			\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,234	\$ -	\$ 2,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 856
Website Related (2022 - pays for 3 years)			\$ -	\$ -	\$ 740	\$ 588	\$ 90	\$ 695	\$ -	\$ 150
NRHC Journal - Illuminate			\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,142	\$ -	\$ 168	\$ 168	\$ 168	\$ 168
Programs			\$ 2,088	\$ 2,956	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Ribbons			\$ -	\$ 147	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 75
Awards			\$ -	\$ 452	\$ -	\$ 1,656	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,248
T-shirts and Lanyards			\$ 2,990	\$ 4,231	\$ 373	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100
Yes Events Registration (not incl. folders)			\$ 9,167	\$ 10,869	\$ 9,000	\$ 5,705	\$ 17,000	\$ 9,025	\$ 9,475	\$ 11,000
Yes Events Folders			\$ -	\$ 350	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Yes Events Credit Card Fees			\$ 3,370	\$ 4,954	\$ 4,007	\$ 650	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 5,000
Misc Meeting Food/Travel Exp (NCHC Fall Meetings)			\$ -	\$ 1,768	\$ 1,509	\$ 155	\$ 1,215	\$ 1,924	\$ 1,805	\$ 1,485
Misc. Conference Expense (summer planning, etc.)			\$ 1,147	\$ 1,299	\$ 1,145	\$ 391	\$ 1,848	\$ 832	\$ 1,925	\$ 1,250
NH State Registration / Graphic Artwork			\$ -	\$ 50	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 150	\$ -
DJ and Photo Booth			\$ 963	\$ 830	\$ 200	\$ -	\$ 1,475	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,358	\$ 1,545
Maryland Transit Passes			\$ -	\$ 1,140	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Keynote Speaker books			\$ -	\$ 746	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ -
Zoom and (Slack - \$1,131)							\$ 149	\$ 150	\$ 1,181	\$ 1,400
Gift Card Scam / Illegal Photo copywrite							\$ 800	\$ -	\$ 275	\$ -
Keynote Speaker Honorarium			\$ 1,000	\$ 1,255	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ -
NRHC Taxes - SNHU Acct. Professor/student			\$ -	\$ 212	\$ 300	\$ -	\$ 455	\$ 150	\$ 140	\$ 200
Insurance: Officers and Directors Insurance			\$ -	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,552	\$ 1,552
Insurance: Special Event Insurance for the Hotel			\$ -	\$ 410	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 338	\$ 348	\$ 348	\$ 348
Stipends - Executive Board			\$ 1,019	\$ 35,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000
Stipends - Executive Board - Faculty Representatives			\$ 1,800	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
Reimbursement - Executive Board - Student Representatives			\$ 1,200	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 970	\$ 540
Stipend - Conf. Asst. / Sponsorship Director			\$ -	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
<b>Total Expenses:</b>			\$ 107,985	\$ 166,169	\$ 61,350	\$ 53,145	\$ 140,113	\$ 125,851	\$ 131,546	\$ 132,317

## Executive Secretary's Report

*Submitted by Kat MacDonald*

The NRHC Executive Secretary maintains watch over the NRHC Gmail Account ([northeastregionalhonorscouncil@gmail.com](mailto:northeastregionalhonorscouncil@gmail.com)). Kat MacDonald, Monroe College, has served in this post during the 2024-25 year.

The Executive Secretary compiles items for all “NRHC News” announcements, maintains the email distribution list, and responds to nearly all emails that are sent to this inbox. During the conference season, the Secretary compiles a “conference email list” to generate “NRHC Conference” announcements and communications.

In addition to maintaining all NRHC communications, the Executive Secretary takes minutes at all board meetings, typically held bi-monthly throughout the calendar year. She also takes minutes at the semi-annual Business Meetings and compiles the Business Meeting materials for the membership.

We ask that all NRHC members, conference registrants, and conference presenters read all emails carefully. There was a high number of cancellations this year (47 cancellations, which equates to 16.5% of accepted proposals), and tracking and logging all of those cancellations can be a challenge. Additionally, a large amount of last-minute conference schedule requests came to the NRHC within 10 days of the conference—many of the presentations were in the same slot in the conference program in March 2024 as they were in the first draft that was sent out in January 2024. As the Executive Secretary maintains the conference program, it is especially important that stakeholders in the program proofread each draft to avoid a large influx of last-minute changes.

As a reminder, all requests should be emailed to [northeastregionalhonorscouncil@gmail.com](mailto:northeastregionalhonorscouncil@gmail.com) and not to individual board members. In order for us to respond correctly, all emails should go to that address.

Further, for this conference year, the Executive Secretary completed the following in preparation of the conference:

- Designed, generated, and updated the Conference Program (including Conference at a Glance)
- Designed and generated Student Presenter Certificates and Art Show Presenter Certificates, and all other certificates.
- Compiled and organized the judging for all NRHC Awards this year, including SEA Awards, Student of the Year,
- Served as Editor-in-Chief of Illuminate, the Undergraduate Journal of NRHC and created the Creative of the Year and Paper of the Year Awards

## Web Coordinator Report

*Submitted by Tanya Radford*

One important aspect of the Web Coordinator position is to work with our vendor YesEvents on the annual conference's CFP site and conference registration. In 2025, we again opted not to use an electronic conference schedule and bill institutions for their membership to minimize costs.

The following conference report provides information about proposal submissions (as aggregate and then broken into categories), conference registrants, attendee type and special dietary requests.

Special thanks to Nichole Ballard of YesEvents for support and speedy responses to queries!

### Conference Report

#### *Conference Proposals*

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Proposals completed:	284	306	272
Proposals withdrawn:	5	6	4
Proposals accepted:	281	300	272
	v6%	^9%	v8%

#### *Registrations*

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Conference Registrants:	404	405	380

Scholarships awarded:	13	20	13
# institutions registered	63	58	58

***Submissions by Presentation Type***

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Academic Panel:	45%	40%	47%
Poster:	36%	34%	33%
Roundtable:	14%	22%	12%
Art Gallery:	<1%	1%	4%
Perf. Arts/Film Showcase:	2%	1%	3%
Idea Exchange:	2%	1%	1%

***Submissions by Strand***

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
The Arts	5%	n/a	n/a
Social Sciences:	19%	21%	24%

Natural Sciences, Mathematics, & Allied Health:	21%	25%	22%
History, Politics & Culture :	20%	10%	17%
Language, Literature & Philosophy:	6%	6%	9%
Business, Economics & Technology:	12%	13%	10%
Education:	13%	9%	7%
Media Studies & Communication Arts:	3%	7%	4%
*Other	7%	9%	7%

***Registrant Attendee Type***

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
First year	6%	10%	9%
Sophomore	20%	18%	16%
Junior	16%	18%	13%
Senior	34%	33%	36%
Faculty	15%	15%	15%
Administrator	6%	6%	7%

Other	3%	>1%	4%
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***Dietary Requests***

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
No restrictions	83%	82%	81%
Vegetarian	7%	5%	7%
Vegan	1%	2%	1%
Kosher	>1%	>1%	1%
Gluten Free	2%	2%	2%
Other	7%	9%	8%
Iftar	n/a	6%	5%

## Harrisburg 2025 Conference Report

*Submitted by Jessica McCort*

The 2025 annual NRHC conference was hosted in Harrisburg, PA from March 27-30 at the Harrisburg Hilton. This year's theme was "Civic Engagement at the Crossroads." The signature event for the first night of the conference was a talk offered by artist, writer, educator, and public art producer, Jeff Copus, co-founder of Sprocket Mural Works, an organization dedicating to designing and executing community murals in and around Harrisburg. Following the panel discussion, Honors faculty and staff were invited to participate in a networking event run by NRHC Faculty Representatives, while students attended a trivia game night run by our student representatives.

Day two of the conference was kicked off with a CaT Introduction by Frank Grumbine, who spoke about his work as Historic Preservation Specialist for Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. The Friday night Banquet Keynote was given by Lenwood Sloan, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Monument Project, which preserves, conserves, and rededicates historic and cultural monuments throughout the state. Following the Banquet, students attended a Karaoke Night.

Day three hosted the majority of student presentations in the form of posters, roundtable discussions, and panel talks. NRHC President Dr. Zachary Aidala gave the address at the Presidential Luncheon. Professional development for Honors professionals included a networking breakfast and idea exchange. Students attended the signature student event, an evening gala themed as the Enchanted Garden.

The Conference concluded on March 30. The NRHC Business Meeting was held that morning, followed by the conference's second poster session and the NRHC Awards Ceremony. The Conference closed formally with the Passing of the Torch from incoming President Jessica McCort to incoming President-Elect Hillary Sackett-Taylor.

### *Harrisburg By the Numbers*

- 284 Proposals Received
- 284 Proposals Accepted
- 47 students cancelled presentations (as of 3.26.25) – 16.5% of total accepted proposals were cancelled
- ~385 registrations (as of 3.26.25)

# Faculty Representatives Report

*Submitted by Gwen Kay and AnnMarie DelliPizzi*

## **NRHC 2025 Board Responsibilities**

The Faculty Representatives changed the language for the Scholarship for Equity and Access (SEA) in the fall; in the spring, we reviewed all of the SEA applications and awarded 13.

The Faculty Representatives created a Respectful Behavior Policy. Everyone attending the annual conference will be asked to attest that they understand and will follow the policy.

## **NRHC 2025 Conference**

The Faculty Representatives continue to plan the Thursday evening discussion on Thursday, March 27. Largely social and intended for networking, we hope to foster conversation on many topics, including:

- Promoting citizenship/creating community in honors
- Building and promoting student resiliency
- How honors directors have navigated dealing with underprepared students/changing standards in honors

Saturday morning's breakfast offers the opportunity to discuss more issues including:

- Increasing student resiliency/intrinsic motivation
- Value of Honors for your institution and for the students involved
- Engaging students in and out of the classroom
- Budget – how to manage student engagement on a small budget
- Retention of Honors students

The Faculty Representatives will foster conversation among directors and faculty through Bingo, distributing the boards on Thursday evening and awarding prizes through a raffle on Sunday, March 30.

## Student Representative Report

*Submitted by Brooke Griffith, Rhheaa Mehta, and Amanda Olachea*

Dear Honors Deans, Directors, and Students:

We hope you had an amazing time at the 2025 NRHC Conference in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. As the conference comes to an end, we wanted to take a moment to reflect on our experience as NHRC Student Representatives, planning events and developing so many skills.

The three of us – Amanda Olachea, Brooke Griffith, and Rhheaa Mehta – have been working hard since last summer to put together the student events and social media posts. We divided the events according to our passions and met often to keep everyone on the same page. We learned how to effectively and efficiently keep everyone updated on each others work and how to plan our meetings and our individual deadlines well.

We wanted our events to engage students and reflect what we experienced attending the events at the 2024 NRHC Conference. With Amanda Olachea spearheading, we designed a Trivia Night for the first day to ensure that the students have broken the ice and are having fun meeting new people right from the very start. We loved the Karaoke Night that occurred last year, so we decided to recreate it, learning from mistakes that happened last year – again, with Amanda Olachea spearheading. With Brooke Griffith spearheading, we decided on an Echanted Garden theme for our Student Gala on the last night. We found a DJ and photobooth set up to ensure that the night was as fun for the attendees as it was for us to put together. With Rhheaa spearheading, we ensured that the Student Art Gallery was advertised and set up well, and that students would learn something and have fun looking at all the art of their peers. And, of course, with Rhheaa spearheading, we had the Instagram account for NRHC (@nrhchonors) running posts that mixed informative announcements with fun sneak peeks and excitement-building posts – despite technological issues we had during the Fall.

As Student Representatives, we were also consistently in communication with the NRHC executive board. We attended board meetings, and worked closely with the NRHC [IDK WHAT HER ROLE IS THIS YEAR] Hillary Sackett-Talyor and NRHC [IDK WHAT HER ROLE IS THIS YEAR EITHER] Kat MacDonald, who both supported us throughout the process and helped us make our ideas into reality. We also recruited students to help us set-up events and create the best possible version of our ideas through the Student Activities Committee (SAC).

If you're interested in developing your leadership and organizational skills, and love the NRHC Conference as much as we do, please consider applying for the NRHC Student Representative positions for 2026. It is an experience truly like none other that will challenge you but also help you grow and thrive. You will also be working with a team of amazing, talented experts! Please email us at nrhcstudentreps@gmail.com with any questions you might have; we are always here to answer.

Thank you,

Amanda Olachea, Brooke Griffith, and Rhheaa Mehta

**The 2024 Edition of *Illuminate* is online!**

[www.illuminatenrhc.com](http://www.illuminatenrhc.com)

**Data on the 2024 Edition -Volume 6 (2024)**

*Proposals Received: 41*

- 19 Accepted with minor revisions
  - o 1 student did not submit a revision
- 20 Conditionally Accepted pending major revisions and second review
  - o 1 student did not respond at all to the opportunity to revise and resubmit
  - o The authors of 4 papers opted out of continuing process to revise
  - o One author had two conditionally accepted papers and opted out of revising both (though only one would have been published if revised and accepted)
  - o 12 students sent revisions of their papers
    - § 1 student was rejected on second review due to lack of revision
    - § 11 students were Accepted
      - All 11 students resubmitted final drafts and moved to publication
- 1 Rejected

**Total Published: 29**

- Academic: 20

- Creative: 9

**70.7% of Proposals Published**

*Note – at least six more papers were eligible for publication; however, students opted out or did not follow through on completing the editorial process. We intentionally accepted all papers that could be published/published following major revision.*

Thank you to the 2024 *Illuminate* Editorial Board:

- Zachary Aidala, Bloomfield College of Montclair State University
- Autumn Barszczkowski, Point Park University
- Matt Baran, SUNY Buffalo State University
- Chris Brittain, Ocean County College
- AnnMarie DelliPizzi, Dominican University New York
- Kyle Dineen, Frederick Community College
- Irina Ellison, Mercy University
- Helen Fallon, Point Park University
- Crista Fiala, University of St. Joseph
- Brooke Griffith, Thiel College
- Morgan Harrington, Buffalo State University
- Gwen Kay, SUNY Oswego
- Kathryn M. MacDonald, Monroe University
- Jessica McCort, Point Park University
- Amy McMillan, SUNY Buffalo State University
- Kezia Namakula, Hartwick College
- Amanda Olachea, Dominican University New York
- Gretchen Purvis, Rutgers University Camden
- Tanya Radford, Dominican University New York
- Michael Tasto, Southern New Hampshire University

**Submissions are now open for the 2025 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 sixth 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. Please note that if a student submits two pieces for consideration and both are accepted, the student will be asked to pick only one for publication.

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, specifically Microsoft Word. PDF files are not acceptable.

Students are encouraged to submit works that are connected to the 2025 NRHC Conference Theme--*Civic Engagement at the Crossroads*. 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 2025 NRHC Conference, please click [here](#).

Academic 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. Papers with footnotes can be considered, but please know that contributors will be required to remove and format footnotes to the *Illuminate* style guidelines. All 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 .jpg or .png files with a high resolution of at least 300 dpi [\[AD1\]](#) . 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. Images must be open access if they are to be published by this journal. If authors do not own the rights to the images, they will be asked to provide hyperlinks to the original image so the journal can link to the images directly. Further for authors in the sciences that have papers with multiple formulas, tables, etc., those must be formatted as .jpgs or .pngs for publication by the author.

Please note that while for an NRHC conference, students create poster files via PowerPoint/other software or create a slideshow presentation, **poster 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 .jpg 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\* 2025 edition.](#)

**The deadline for submissions to the 2025 edition is Sunday, May 18, 2025 at 11:59 p.m. EST.**

## Spring 2025 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 Monday, May 19.

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, and president, is a three-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 (3 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.

**Publications Officer (1 open position):** The Publications Officer shall be elected for a term of three years and shall be a member of the region. The Publications Officer shall maintain any and all publications on behalf of the Region, including, but not limited to, the conference program and the undergraduate research journal Illuminate. The position shall include the following duties: Oversee the publication process, including soliciting submissions, editors, and /or reviewers as necessary; Organize and maintain publication formatting and structure; Create the annual conference program; Maintain archives of publications. *(Note – this will have a special TWO-YEAR TERM since there was no officer elected during the 2024 election cycle).*

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

**[You can click here to nominate yourself or another individual.](#)**

## Future Conference Sites

The Site Selection Committee is pleased to report that our tentative location for the 2026 Annual Conference will be **New Haven, Connecticut**, hosted at the **Omni New Haven Hotel at Yale**.

Theme: "**The Haven of Honors: Cultivating Innovative, Upstanding, and Impactful Leaders**"

The proposed conference dates are **March 26–29, 2026**.

- **Room Rate:** \$205 per night
- **Parking:** \$20 per night

In response to increasing costs related to food and hotel venue rentals, we anticipate a moderate increase in conference registration fees. Exact pricing will be announced once we finalize the contract in April, 2025. We are working to keep this adjustment minimal while maintaining the high-quality experience our attendees expect.

New Haven is an exciting new location for NRHC. Conveniently located nearby to many of our members, it offers convenient access by car, train, or plane. The city is easily reached via major highways, Amtrak and Metro-North rail lines, and nearby airports, making it an accessible and appealing destination.

New Haven is an historic, vibrant, and walkable city rich in academic and cultural offerings—an ideal setting for honors students and intellectually curious attendees. Home to Yale University, the area features world-renowned museums such as the Yale University Art Gallery and the Yale Center for British Art, both of which are free to the public.

We believe New Haven will provide a stimulating and engaging environment for our 2026 conference and look forward to confirming the details in the coming months.

## Theme and Planning for 2026

- **Site:** We are currently in negotiations with a host hotel to hold next year's conference in New Haven.
- **Theme:** We are still finalizing conversations around next year's theme, waiting especially on finalizing the contract, but we have currently settled on "The Haven of Honors: Cultivating Innovative, Upstanding, and Impactful Leaders."
- **Looking Ahead:** We will notify the membership as soon as contract details are finalized so you can begin preparing for next year. However, with rising costs in most areas, we are facing the necessity to raise the price of registrations.

## NRHC Member Involvement

[Please click here to volunteer for a committee. NRHC is committed to reigniting our committee work this academic year, and we need your help!](#)

### **The Membership Committee**

The Membership Committee shall assist the Executive Secretary and Executive Treasurer in identifying and recruiting members and in designing activities to promote active membership in the Region. The Chair and the members of the Membership Committee shall be appointed by the President with the concurrence of the Executive Board.

### **The Nominating Committee**

The Nominating Committee shall be chaired by the President. The Executive Secretary and Executive Treasurer shall be ex-officio members of the Committee. The President, with the concurrence of the Executive Board, shall appoint other members of the Committee. These people shall be members of the Region and shall be appointed for a one-year term. The Nominating Committee shall present a roster of candidates at a Business Meeting with at least one candidate for each office. The Nominating Committee shall invite nominations of other candidates who must be present at the meeting or who have given their written consent for their nomination. Written consent must be presented to the Chair of the Nominating Committee at or prior to the Business Meeting at which the nomination is made. Nominated individuals will stand for election using voting procedures outlined in Article VI.

### **The Site Selection Committee**

The Site Selection Committee. The Chair of the Site Selection Committee and up to three Committee members shall be appointed by the President with the concurrence of the Executive Board. The Site Selection Committee shall identify sites for future Conferences, identify potential site hosts, and shall work with the Executive Committee. The President-Elect is an ex officio member of the Site Selection Committee.

### **The Conference Planning Committee**

Conference Planning Committee. The Co-Chairs of the Conference Planning Committee are the President-Elect and the President. The Executive Board and the chair of the Ad Hoc Local Arrangements Committee are members of the Conference Planning Committee. The Conference Planning Committee shall organize the Annual Conference and make recommendations for assessments of charges, expenditures of funds, and other budgetary matters associated with the Conference. The President-Elect and President may, with the concurrence of the Conference Planning Committee, appoint ad hoc subcommittees and their chairs to address particular issues or topics of concern. Conference budgets shall be submitted to the Board in a timely manner.

### **Diversity and Inclusion Committee**

The Diversity and Inclusion Committee shall be co-chaired by the President and the Vice President. This committee will develop a plan of action to increase diversity in NRHC, contribute to NRHC materials dealing with issues of diversity, and work to fulfill the intention of this statement. Any honors administrator, faculty member, staff member or student of an NRHC member institution can volunteer.

### **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 [illuminatenrhc@gmail.com](mailto:illuminatenrhc@gmail.com) Kathryn MacDonald, Editor in Chief ([kmacdonald@monroecollege.edu](mailto: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.

Queries can also be directed here to [northeastregionalhonorscouncil@gmail.com](mailto:northeastregionalhonorscouncil@gmail.com), and your inquiry will be passed along.