

Conference Tracks Descriptions

National Conference on Higher Education in Prison

Collaborations and Partnerships: Working Across Campus, Corrections, and/or the Community

Proposals that explore problems practically concerned with the day-to-day practices of collaboration and partnership across the diverse #higheredinprison landscape make for great candidates in this track. As the field's stakeholders routinely work across institutions of higher education, with or within the Department of Corrections, and with the broader community, for example, the hard work of collaborating and partnering often emerges as an important point of discussion at the national conference each year.

Elevating Voices: Narrative, the Arts, and Creative Expression

Proposals may seek to elevate or profile voices within the higher education in prison community. Many may also seek to do so in formats that are not as common and/or easily recognized in academia. In particular, this track is best suited to represent the voices and experiences that have not been well-represented or remain marginalized (e.g., people currently incarcerated or family members of people currently or formerly incarcerated) and/or presentation formats such as visual or multimedia arts, prose or poetry, and more. Proposals that seek to expand the complexity and influence of various voices within or even outside the current confines of the field and do so in ways other than the "traditional" conference paper or panel format are most welcome.

Equity in Policy and Practice: Access, Quality, and Pathways to Campus

"Equity" means many things to the Higher Education in Prison Community. It can mean, for example, upholding the same quality standards and access to opportunities that exist in other higher educational contexts in spite of students' incarceration status; it can also mean maintaining sustained attention to how race, gender, ability, economic status, and other dimensions of identity, status, and experience impact every dimension of the field, from teaching and learning to curriculum development to partnerships and program structure. Further refracting these meanings through associations with policies and practices in the field opens many ways to discuss the hard work this community does in opening accessible and quality pathways to (and from) campus.

In the Classroom: Perspectives on Teaching and Learning

Proposals addressing any aspect of "in the classroom" experience or approaches would be relevant and welcome here. Proposals are encouraged to take an expansive and holistic approach to understanding what classroom space involves in an educational landscape undergoing dramatic change. Similarly, proposals should take an expansive view of what it means to teach and learn (and who embodies these roles and the modes of teaching and learning) across today's higher education in prison landscape.

Surveying the Landscape of Higher Education in Prison: Research, Evaluation, and Assessment

More than just a home for proposals on "research" in the field, this track solicits proposals that again take the most expansive and holistic view or understanding of the higher education in prison field imaginable. Proposals exploring any problem related to research, evaluation, and assessment would be most welcome; "data" on the field of higher education in prison remains an area in sore need of community-wide enrichment and development.

The Politics of Higher Education in Prison: Advocacy, Activism, and Abolition

The 2020 National Conference on Higher Education in Prison will mark the Tenth Annual NCHEP. While the movement for higher education in prison expands and has, in many ways, transformed national and even international conversations on the politics of higher education in prison (and mass incarceration more broadly), many important contests regarding the movement's ongoing advocacy, activist, and abolitionist efforts remain up for grabs. Proposals taking an expansive view of politics (i.e. more than electoral, partisan, and state or federal, for example) are most welcome in reconfiguring understandings of the political itself within and related to the field of higher education in prison.