

**2024 Pennsylvania Higher Education Suicide Prevention
Conference
May 15-16
The William Pitt Union – Pittsburgh, PA**

Call for Presentations

Suicide prevention on college campuses has frequently focused on awareness activities, trainings, and speaker programs, but effective and innovative prevention work involves so much more. We invite your presentations on suicide prevention and social-emotional-behavioral wellness in higher education. After reviewing previous feedback, in concert with addressing the important contemporary themes of equity and challenges in the wake of COVID-19, we are particularly interested in presentations that address the following questions as they relate to suicide prevention on college campuses: **How do we address suicide prevention from an intersectional lens and what are the specific ways campuses are addressing this? How are we caring for students, staff and ourselves in this current campus climate? What are ways that campuses are partnering with community and county-wide organizations to provide for student mental wellness needs?**

Although we wish to emphasize these specific topics, we will also accept presentations addressing substance abuse, postvention strategies, reaching particular populations, modifications in service delivery as a result of the pandemic, and specific clinical approaches to suicide prevention. The HESPC encourages proposals that highlight research on student wellness, programmatic initiatives, and clinical strategies as they relate to any of the topics listed above.

The HESPC is committed to creating a conference environment whereby all individuals are valued and included. As such, we ask presenters and conference attendees to examine their contributions through an equitable lens and make conscious efforts to address diversity and inclusion throughout.

The breakout session formats that are offered include workshops, standard presentations, and panel discussions. We are offering 60-minute time blocks for breakout sessions. Please include time for audience discussion as well as Q&A. Presenters will also need to indicate their preference for breakout session format when submitting their proposal.

Keeping in mind that there is a broad range of campus departments and organizations involved in suicide prevention (e.g., student affairs, academic affairs, counseling and health services, wellness coordinators, athletics, fraternity and sorority life, residence life, faith based campus organizations), the conference will follow a public health model. As such, our breakout sessions will focus on three spheres of health; primary or universal, secondary or targeted, and tertiary or indicated. We are seeking breakout session proposals in each sphere. See the descriptions below.

Primary (Universal) Sphere

Breakout sessions in this sphere will feature presentations and trainings pertaining to working with all students and building their capacities, as well as fostering community resiliency across campus. Submissions in the Universal Sphere target a large portion of the campus or the campus culture as a whole.

Secondary (Targeted) Sphere

Breakout sessions in this sphere will feature presentations and trainings that focus on specific campus populations who are at an increased risk for mental health concerns and/or suicidal ideation, or who might experience unique challenges in college. The following populations may be considered, but are not limited to: military and veterans, gender identity, race/ethnicity, religion/spirituality, student athletes, fraternity and sorority life, public safety/security, commuter students, students in health professional fields, international students, and men's mental health.

Tertiary (Indicated) Sphere

Breakout sessions in this sphere will feature presentations and trainings pertaining to working with individual or small groups of students. These breakouts may be more clinically focused and include strategies to directly reduce risk for suicide and/or improve mental wellness.

Self-Care

We hope this conference can provide not only a space to learn from experts in the field but also to take time out of your day to make room for self-care. While it is important to encourage students to engage in healthy self-care practices, it is equally as important to do the same for ourselves. For this reason, we are interested in having lunch sessions on each of the conference days dedicated to self-care. If you are interested in leading a 30 minute guided self-care session, please submit a proposal in that category.

If you are interested in submitting a proposal, please visit: <https://hespc.org/2024-call-for-presentations/>

All proposals are due no later than Friday, January 12th, 2024. Collaborative submissions involving two or more campuses are also encouraged.