



CALL FOR PROPOSALS

8th Annual Texas Higher Education Symposium

Conference Theme: *Higher Education in a Changing Political Climate*

Call for Proposals: February 3, 2017

Proposal Submission Opens: February 6, 2017

Proposal Submission Deadline: May 12, 2017, 11:59 pm

Educators in Texas and across the nation are facing the new challenges and persistent issues of higher education in an era of unprecedented uncertainty at the local, state, and federal level. Gaps in attainment, inclusion and equity concerns, and funding questions are more urgent than ever as new models of accountability are moved from business and management theory to and through the education pipeline. As institutions struggle to accommodate more students with restrained budgets, reduce racialized and gendered gaps in educational attainment, and make persistence – not merely enrollment – a criteria of success, scholarship must continue to examine the most pressing issues affecting higher education in the state. Those invested in Texas higher education must work together to develop scholarship from a variety of perspectives in order to inform state, regional, and institutional policies.

The 8th Annual Texas Higher Education Symposium, which takes place on August 3-4, 2017 at The University of Texas at Austin in Austin, TX, provides an opportunity for Texas higher education scholars to discuss the critical topics affecting higher education in the state. The Symposium is intended to bring together all types of Texas higher education stakeholders to foster conversation around issues of inequity, locating success, challenging habitual practice, and progress made towards justice in the context of college and university campuses. The Symposium invites proposals from scholars, particularly graduate students, faculty, and staff of the state of Texas. We also welcome policy makers, grantors, and others invested in higher education equity in Texas. Proposals should address this year's theme: ***Higher Education in a Changing Political Climate***.

This year's theme, ***Higher Education in a Changing Political Climate***, aims to address the changing landscape of the P-20 education pipeline with high quality research and practices that will inform policy, nurture the next generation of scholars and practitioners focused on Texas higher education issues, and create a space of creative collaboration and networking among various higher education stakeholders. This economical, collegial professional symposium allows students, faculty, practitioners, and community leaders across Texas the opportunity to collaborate, disseminate research and best practices, and generate new ideas to enhance higher education in Texas.

GENERAL INFORMATION

All accepted presenters receive free registration

Graduate student presenters based outside Austin may receive travel funding of up to \$100

Proposal submissions

- Though we welcome proposals from faculty members and/or higher education administrators, all proposals for the main conference must include at least one graduate student as a presenter/author. Pre-symposium proposals have no restriction on authorship.
- Do not submit the same proposal more than once. You may submit more than one proposal, but must complete the submission survey separately for each.
- Proposals must not exceed 1000 words and should include a 100-word abstract.

- One copy of any materials (PPT) or presentation handouts will be requested from presenters, to include in symposium records and reference materials. These should not be submitted with the proposal.

Conference Chair

If you wish to serve as a chair for the Texas Higher Education Symposium, please email texashigheredsymposium@gmail.com by **June 15, 2017** the following information: name, title, institutional affiliation, up to two relevant positions, presentations, publications, and/or unpublished paper titles that highlight your area(s) of expertise. Discussants are expected to attend their assigned session, keep presentations on time, and help facilitate Q&A.

PRE-SYMPOSIUM PROPOSALS

The THES pre-symposium is focused on bringing faculty and advanced graduate students together in the service of promoting educational equity in Texas via research, policy, and practice. The pre-symposium will feature innovative presentation formats and roundtables, to facilitate the exchange of research findings and agendas.

PRE-SYMPOSIUM FORMAT

Roundtables

Roundtables will be 50-minute sessions providing an opportunity for presenters to share information regarding their research in an informal, conversational style with interested persons. Roundtable presenters will be assigned to tables in a large meeting room. Some tables will feature more than one presenter to thematically group presenters. Presenters should allocate roughly equal time between discussion of their research and opportunities for questions from attendees.

Roundtable proposals should describe (in 1000 words or less) as many of the following as are applicable:

- Importance/relevance of the topic
- Objectives or purposes of the proposed discussion
- Perspectives or theoretical/conceptual frameworks that will guide the discussion
- Data, evidence, or resources related to the discussion topic
- Conclusions and implications
- Strategies to facilitate participation in the discussion

Texas Star Showcase

Please submit a brief (500 words or less) explanation of the topic, issue, or area you would like to speak about and how it is related to this year's topic, that includes a 100 word "blurb" about your presentation. This session provides presenters with an opportunity to showcase their work, professional aspirations, and/or research in approximately 20 slides that automatically advance every 15 seconds. The number of slides and time is flexible as long as presentations do not go over the required 5-minute limit. This session is similar to an Ignite presentation, which tend to be brief, engaging, and creative. For examples of Ignite presentations, visit the site here:

<http://www.ignitetalks.io/>

The five most highly rated presentations will be invited to re-present them the next day, to the larger symposium, during a concurrent session.

SYMPOSIUM FORMATS

Research and Practical Application Sessions

Research sessions will be 75 minutes with up to four presentations speaking about research – empirical or theoretical - on a related topic. Workshop sessions will be 75 minutes with up to four presentations aimed to develop a particular skills or knowledge in related areas.

An example session:

- Up to 13 minutes Presenter 1
- Up to 13 minutes Presenter 2
- Up to 13 minutes Presenter 3
- Up to 13 minutes Presenter 4
- Approximately 20 minutes of broadly connected or general questions to all Presenters

Practical Applications Proposals should include as many of the following as are applicable:

- Presentation objectives/purpose
- Relationship to track
- Conceptual foundation
- Learning outcomes
- Description/outline of workshop

Research proposals should include as many of the following as are applicable:

- Study or paper objectives/purpose
- Theoretical or conceptual framework
- Methods or modes of inquiry
- Data or evidence
- Preliminary conclusions or findings
- Study significance

Scholarly proposals should include as many of the following as are applicable:

- Objectives or purpose of the inquiry
- Philosophical, theoretical or practical argument
- Sources (literature, arguments, evidence) to support the argument/analysis
- Conclusions and implications
- Significance of the argument/analysis for higher education

SYMPOSIUM PROPOSAL TRACKS

We welcome empirical, theoretical, and practice-based scholarship related to inequity and policy, though we especially encourage submissions addressing the five tracks below. If your submission addresses more than one track, even better!

Track 1: Higher Education Policy and Institutional Culture

State and federal higher education policy impacts institutional policies and practices. How do state and federal policies support or inhibit institutional goals relating to equity? What approaches can we use to understand the changing policy landscape and critique current policies that may not promote equity? Examples include: supportive institutional policies, linking inclusive policies to global interdependence, inclusive hiring practices, and policy analysis.

Track 2: Bridging Theory and Practice in Student Affairs

Student affairs is best understood from the stance of theory and research that bridge directly to practice. What innovative practices promote and expand access and equity? How can we analyze and assess best practices? Examples include: teacher certification, student affairs programming, co-curricular development, and assessment/evaluation design.

Track 3: Everything's Special in Texas

Each state has a unique context, and Texas has its own unique issues. How do we make sense of current events impacting higher education in Texas? How do Texas events impact the nation? Examples include: affirmative action, campus carry, regional action plans and successes, and historical analyses.

Track 4: Higher Education Populations

From students and faculty to staff and administrators to legislators and nonprofits, there are multiple constituents involved in making higher education work better and affected by every change made. Who is impacted and how? How can we theorize about how these groups relate to each other? What experiences from these populations can inform our work? Examples include: underrepresented students, faculty, and/or staff, college readiness, community college populations, and STEM students.

Track 5: The Cost, Funding, and Value of Higher Education

Funding issues occur at multiple levels, from state budgeting allocations to scholarship policies, from funding formulas to the cost of tuition and the earning potential of graduates. What effects are funding policies having on equity and access? How can we examine funding policies to understand their effects? How are programs and initiatives using creative funding streams or approaches to expand access? Examples include: scholarship policies, workforce development, state funding policies, and affordability.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

To submit your proposal complete and submit the online proposal form via the following link:

[Texas Higher Education Symposium Proposal](#).

IMPORTANT DATES

Call disseminated:	February 3
Proposal Submission Opens:	February 6
Proposal Submission Closes:	May 12 by 11:59 p.m. CST
Notifications Sent:	May 31
Confirm Intent to Present:	June 30
Schedule Posted:	July 17

Please direct inquiries to texashigheredsymposium@gmail.com

Beth Bukoski, Ph.D., Symposium Chair

Alden Jones, Program Committee Chair

Jorge Burmicky, Pre-symposium Committee Co-chair

Denisa Gandara, Pre-symposium Committee Co-chair