

**North Carolina Emergency Management Association
Institutions of Higher Education Caucus**

**March 26, 2019
Cherokee, NC**

Meeting Minutes

Present: Travis Bryant, Curtis Dowdle, Chris Gonyar, Josh Kerlin, Jason Marshburn, Kevin Martin, Zach Smith, Kenny Stewart, Jason Stogner, Shane Stovall, Justin Tilghman, Debi Trivette, Bryant Waters, Bob Stagg, Ed Duffield, Jim Rardin, Paul Dupree, McKenzie Newkirk, Neil McKeeman, Thomas Hooks, Blake Halsey, Stephanie Klein, Kelly White

1. Meeting convened at 11:48 am
2. Welcoming remarks provided by Zach Smith
 - a. Shared that the NCEMA leadership was excited for the start of the IHEC
 - b. Zach is looking to develop a written strategic plan for the IHEC with input from the caucus body and leadership
3. SWOT Discussion
 - a. Continuation of the SWOT activity from Monday's meeting
 - b. Small group discussions took place to identify the top 3 priorities for each area of the SWOT based on feedback captured during Monday's meeting (summary below)
4. Closing Remarks
 - a. NC A&T University has a current opening for an emergency management director
 - b. Zach thanked those who have volunteered to fill the various IHEC roles during this first year
5. Meeting adjourned at 12:48 pm

SWOT Discussion Summary

Strengths

Practitioners:

1. Engagement and relationships
2. Growth opportunities
3. File repository

Academics:

1. Collaboration & relationships & communication
2. File repository
3. Community college system office data continuation

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Weaknesses

Practitioners:

1. Current NCEMA membership structure & political climate
2. Perception of higher ed emergency management
3. Wearing multiple hats - various initiatives at different levels (local, state, regional)

Academics:

1. Lack of clarity - where do the academic representatives fit in the IHEC
2. Split between EPT & FIP courses (em & fire)
3. Lack of representation from 4 year institutions

Opportunities

Practitioners:

1. Job recruitment
2. Improve the perception of higher ed & showcase capabilities
3. Learning from each other & establishing best practices

Academics:

1. Transfer credit for experience
2. Membership growth and unity in message
3. Integration knowledge/research with experience and providing presentations

Threats

Practitioners:

1. NCEMA membership structure and lack of voting rights within the association
2. Lack of entry level emergency management job opportunities
3. Caucus membership spread too thin to fill all positions

Academics:

1. Lack of jobs
2. Lack of understanding on what HE emergency management does
3. FTE generation