

**NHERI Council Monthly Meeting No. 7 (November 7th meeting was postponed), Y-9**  
**February 13, 2025, 11:00 – 12:00 PM, Eastern (8:00 to Noon, Pacific)**

**NHERI Council Meetings**

**Title:** NHERI Council - Fall 2024

**Location:** <https://DesignSafe-ci.zoom.us/j/98729891832>

**When:** February 13, 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM Eastern

**Attending:**

- Oregon State University: Dan Cox (EF Dir. and Council Chair) and Pedro Lomonaco (Fac. Dir.) Hinsdale
- University of California, Berkeley: Matt DeJong (Co-Dir.), and Matt Schoettler (Assoc. Dir. – Ops), Stanford University: Greg Deierlein (Co-Dir), SimCenter
- University of California, Davis: Jason DeJong (EF Dir) and Dan Wilson (Assoc. Dir.) CGM
- University of California, San Diego: John McCartney (EF Dir.,) LHPOST
- University of Colorado Boulder: Lori Peek (Dir., CONVERGE)
- University of Florida: Jennifer Bridge (EF Dir.) Powell Lab
- University of Texas at Austin: Ellen Rathje (CI Dir. and Council Vice-Chair) and Tim Cockerill (Dep. Proj. Dir.) DesignSafe-CI
- University of Texas at Austin: Ken Stokoe (EF Dir.), Tricia Clayton (CoPi), and Sungmoon Hwang (syongmoon@utexas.edu) (Operations Manager) Texas Mobile Equipment Facility
- University of Washington: Joe Wartman (EF Dir.) and Jeff Berman (CoPI and Fac. Manager) RAPID
- National Science Foundation: Joy Pauschke (Prog. Dir, NHERI)
- Purdue University: Julio Ramirez (NCO Dir., Council Secretary), JoAnn Browning (NCO ECO Leader), Cheryl Ann Blain (NCO-Comms Leader) and Dan Zehner (NCO Sch./Ops. Coord.)
- Florida International University: Arindam Chowdhury (EF Dir.), Ioannis Sizis (CoPI) and Steve Diaz (Site Operations Manager) WOW
- Lehigh University: Jim Ricles (EF Dir.), Liang Cao ([lic418@lehigh.edu](mailto:lic418@lehigh.edu)), Joe Saunders, (Facility Manager), and Claudia Reis (Co-PI Lehigh NHERI Facility)
- Guests: Marti LaChance (NCO, ECO), Prof. Laura Lowes.

## Minutes

### 1. (5 min) Attendance and introductions (All)



Dejang Chen represented FIU.

### 2. (5 min) Review and Approval of Minutes of 1/09/26 Meeting No. 6 in Y-9. (Meeting No. 4 of November 7 was postponed to December 5) (Dan Cox)

Minutes were approved as distributed. Ellen moved and John seconded the motion.

Approved Minutes posted at: <https://www.designsafe-ci.org/facilities/nco/governance/nheri-council/>

### 3. (45 min) Ongoing Business –

#### a) (10 min) Lessons learned from the booth deployment to AGU- Dec. 2024. (Marti LaChance and Dan Zehner)

Marti shared with the Council a report on the activities connected with the NHERI booth deployment. The report is attached to the minutes of this meeting. It includes the NHERI participants supporting the booth, a summary of the booth activities, a debrief of the participants with lessons learned and opportunities.

#### b) (10 min) Outcomes from NHERI Computational Symposium, February 2025. (Matt)

Matt DeJong and Matt Schoettler shared preliminary outcomes of the NHERI Computational Symposium, held on February 5-7, 2025, at the UCLA Luskin Conference Center. The symposium brought together more than 240 researchers and industry practitioners from the natural hazards engineering and social science disciplines. Next time a site closer to the East Cost will be chosen for the Symposium. Activities collocated with the Symposium consisted of RAPID training with more than 30 attendees, and a SymCenter/DesignSafe Tools training with 60 attendees. More information about the Symposium can be found at: [2025 NHERI Computational Symposium Wrap Up](#)

(10 min) Data Depot metrics (Tim C.)

Tim reported that he is working with facilities to provide the metrics requested.

- c) (15 min) Proposal to NSF for funding to develop a virtual PhD-level educational program focused on Natural Hazard Engineering for Community Resilience. (Laura Lowes)

Prof. Lowes extended an invitation to the Council members interested in partnering their team on a Natural Hazard Engineering Education for Resilient Communities (NHEERC) proposal that they plan to submit to the NSF Innovations in Graduate Education program seeking funding to create a virtual university (VU) providing graduate-level short courses addressing natural hazard engineering and community resilience topics.

At this time Dr. Mike Motley, Dr. Karina Vielma and her are working to finalize their proposal for a deadline in mid-March (NSF deadline in late March). The proposal will include a section that provides brief descriptions of some of the courses that will potentially be developed and offered during the first two years of the program, with repetitive offerings of these courses on a one- or two-year cycle, depending on student demand and instructor availability. Text presenting these example courses will also identify the individual(s) who will develop and teach these courses and/or the NHERI facility that will provide support for course development and teaching. This is a proposal, and NSF has not formally posted RFPs for continuation of NHERI, so all of this is tentative.

**Action Item:** She invited the NHERI sites interested in participating in the NHEERC-VU, to please send her an email with a couple of sentence description of the course(s) the facility would like to sponsor, and the potential instructor if known.

4. (5 min) New Business

- a. (5 min) NIAC in-person visit to WoW and NICHE, February 24-25, 2025 (Julio)

Julio updated the Council about an upcoming in person NIAC meeting during a visit to FIU. Several items are on the NIAC agenda such as visit to WoW and NICHE, NHERI renewal, the NIAC annual report, and update by the NCO.

5. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 11:58 AM EST.



# Outcomes from NHERI at AGU 2024

Preliminary data as of Feb 10, 2025

Marti LaChance  
NHERI NCO Communications Manager

# 15 Dedicated Volunteers

Many thanks to our booth volunteers:

- Maria Esteva from DesignSafe
- Karen Dedinsky, Jaq Zdebski, Andrew Lyda, and Mike Grilliot from the RAPID
- Koorosh Lotfizadeh, UC San Diego
- Barbaros Cetiner, SimCenter
- Abdullah Braik, Grad Student Council
- Pedro Lomonaco, OSU
- And Bill Holmes, Mohammad Khosravi, Julio Ramirez, JoAnn Browning, Marti LaChance, and Cheryl Ann Blain from the NCO

# Booth Activity Data

- **Introduce AGU attendees to NHERI with our 30-second script**
  - Goal: 50
  - Outcome: 335 (nearly 7 times over our goal)
- **Collect email addresses from AGU attendees**
  - Goal: 10
  - Outcome: 40 (4 times above the goal)
- **Distribute NHERI info cards**
  - Goal: 30
  - Outcome: We distributed 300 NHERI info cards – all we had! (10 times above the goal)
- **Distribute info cards on NHERI Tech Transfer database**
  - Goal: 30
  - Outcome: 135 (4.5 times above the goal)



# Strong interest in NHERI ECO programming

- Graduate Student Council: 50 info sheets distributed
- Summer Institute: 25 info sheets distributed
- NHERI REU: 25 info sheets distributed

Many more people took photos of these info sheets than took one home.

**POSITIVE IMPACT.** During and immediately after the AGU meeting, Dec 9-31, we recorded significant NEW INTEREST in the NHERI Summer Institute and the Grad Student council. Specifically:

- GSC: 7 new memberships; normally 0 during this period.
- Summer Institute: 14 registrations completed, 18 in progress, a significant bump in interest.

# AGU Volunteers Debrief

- Despite initial problems (e.g. missing booth components and display malfunctions) volunteers agreed the 2024 AGU in DC was overall successful for NHERI and their EF.
- Volunteers agreed that having the NHERI booth presence at professional meetings was beneficial for engaging prospective researcher-users as well as students and early career researchers.
- Before the AGU 2025 meeting, the NCO will form a planning committee, with reps from all facilities, to discuss specific new steps to implement.

# Suggested improvements

- Improve processes for booth setup and tear-down; ensure booth components are in working order before shipping.
- Update the booth's video displays and have devices available for visitors to browse data and the website.
- Structure a volunteer schedule that enables booth "office hours;" consider scheduling and promoting a daily NHERI talk.
- Consider interactive "natural hazards" games or quizzes to engage booth visitors.
- Arrange booth tables so that visitors can "enter" and interact longer with display models.
- Consider using QR codes instead of paper handouts.

# Representing the NHERI network

- Have a larger banner or backdrop that better showcases all NHERI EFs.
- Have an interactive, hands-on model from each experimental facility.
- Ensure volunteers have sufficient NHERI knowledge to connect booth displays to specific EF capabilities and research.
- Create a table-top “disaster city” with an array of hazards and structures and NHERI EF models that provide hands-on connections between hazards and NHERI EF capabilities.





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