



Honors Transfer Council of California
December 5, 2025

Tim Adell, Victor Valley
Rebecca Ancheta, CC of San Francisco
Joaquin Arias, LA Harbor
Ruth Blandón, East LA
Alyson Butcher, West Valley
Judy Cannon, Crafton Hills
Towana Catley, Antelope Valley
Deidre Cavazzi, Saddleback
Deborah Chau, Saddleback
Carol Damgen, San Bernardino Valley
Chase Dimock, College of the Canyons
John Fox, Foothill
Ninja Friberg, Student Rep
Deanna Garabedian, Reedley
Erin Hayes, LA Pierce

Maria Jeleca
Fatima Jinnah, Foothill
Irena Keller, Las Positas
Evan Kendall, LA City
Nathan Lopez, Compton
Ea Madrigal, Rio Hondo
Jennifer Miller-Thayer, Citrus
Erik Ozolins, Mt. San Jacinto
Alannah Rosenberg, NCHC
Kathryn Sonne, Cypress
Jeff Wheeler, Long Beach
Rachel Williams, El Camino
Kassia Wossick, El Camino
Christina Yamanaka-Vu, Mt. San Jacinto
Cameron Young, Norco

1. October 10 Minutes: The minutes were approved as amended.

2. Officers' Reports:

- a. President's Report:** Joaquin shared a report of metrics showing the genuine fiscal benefits of Honors programs, arguing for increased budgets.
- b. Vice President's Report:** deferred to Conference Committee report
- c. Treasurer's Report:** Nathan showed a list of schools that have yet to pay dues.
- d. Transfer Coordinator's Report:** Alannah reported that Lake Forest and Denver have expressed interest. Denver is a transfer-oriented institution that has generous benefits. They have a Phi Theta chapter. Irena reported that the Jack Kent Cooke foundation reached out to us. They sent a flyer they want us to share with our students. Alannah has updated the link on our website. The website is being updated right now. She reported that Goldwater has help for sophomore and junior students. Christina suggested providing a link to the NCHC's information on scholarships and information. Erik has talked to the director of UC Merced. They want to have a virtual discussion with the HTCC. If we are interested in this, we should talk to Erik.

e. **Secretary's Report:** No report, except for the twentieth century crushing of Lake Forest Soccer by North Park College (and Theological Seminary) Soccer.

3. Conference Chair Report: Erik shared information on deadlines and reminded us not to share the directors' guide with students. December 14 is a firm deadline for submission this year. The password is Director26. Erik reminded us to register ourselves when we are registering our students, faculty and VIPs. Emily reminded us that UCR is concerned about CC budgets impacting student participation in next year's conference. She asked for an estimation of how much attendance may go down. Nathan said they may not be able to come at all because funds for transportation have been cut altogether. Rachel said they have money for registration but not as much for transportation. Jennifer has money for registration and students' carpool. They have had fewer students submitting this year. Ruth says PTK has paid in the past but that isn't sure this year. Christina reminded us that we might consider a fund in which well endowed programs can help with less well-funded schools. Alannah suggested that geology, athletics, communications departments often do trips and would be available for transportation. Joachin said that MESA programs often have funds and resources. Emily suggested we may be able to set up something through the HTCC that helps more financially strapped schools. Erik and Alannah said that most schools are being tighter with documentation for any outside expenditures. Alannah suggested we get non-profit status so we can do fund-raisers for cash-strapped colleges. Rachel reminded us of a pre-Covid practice of having some registration \$35 and some \$50.

Conference Program: Tim reported that Emily has given us a schedule and the main work will start in February.

Conference Website: Alannah reminded us that the link for the student guide is on the website and the directors' guide is in Members Only. BackstagePass22 is the Members Only password. Joachin has posted last year's program in a phone-ready version.

Conference Posters: Judy reported that we need volunteer judges. The deadline for the conference is March 8. We will be doing the initial judging roughly a week before the conference. That judging will narrow the list down to finalists, which will be judged on the day of the conference. Discussing the research with students on that day will be part of the process. Faculty may participate in the initial judging without being required to attend the conference.

Awards and Scholarships: We need abstract readers from a variety of disciplines, especially STEM. This is a good place for new faculty and for recruiting Honors faculty. Stella needs volunteers to read for Outstanding Abstract and Directors Award. We are accepting submissions for Exemplary Achievement, an award for an essay explaining how Honors work has impacted their lives. They do not need to present at the conference. Erik encouraged us to bring our students up for Exemplary Achievement award to the conference in some way in case they get the award. The

Juan Lara award is also available for students with exceptional awards. Nathan announced that the scholarships will be the same amount as last year. Key dates: December 14. Erik raised the question of students who do their poster research at outside institutions such as universities and laboratories. Judy stressed that these students are guaranteed to “sweep our awards” since they have resources our Honors program do not. She suggested we should consider whether these posters should be eligible for awards. Jennifer acknowledged the problem and suggested that we can lose some sense of community if we exclude students who do some research at other institutions. We should allow them to present if not qualify for awards. Erik reported that the Conference Committee had basically agreed with Jennifer. We want to allow them to submit and present but not be eligible for the awards. Emily noted that the acceptance rate is higher for posters than oral presentations: 79 accepted, 9 rejected last year. Alannah and Irena suggested a space on the submission form for disclosure that some resources came from outside the community college—and possibly a category for specialize institutions. Christina pointed out we might have a space for nuances such as where the outside help came from and how much there was. Jennifer suggested we should specify that we should emphasize community college work. Emily will send Alannah the language for the website. Irena wants students to disclose this information on the poster as well as the submission. Erik stressed that this transparency is a part of academic integrity, which forms part of our professional training of students. Jennifer said we can have fund-raisers in which we partner with businesses to get a percentage of the profits during a drive. Ruth highlighted how schools are pushing up class sizes; Alannah reminded us that we have class-size language in our agreements and increasing class sizes might hurt those agreements. Emily said we went up from 303 submissions in 2024 to 363 in 2025 and increase from 56 to 98 rejections. Alannah stressed that we are fine with numbers from a UCR standpoint but not from an equity standpoint; we need to do something to help our more challenged or distant members. Erik and Emily reminded us that we *need* STEM reviewers. Emily asked for a moderator and volunteer coordinator.

Communications: Ruth and Evan will send students a link they will use to register themselves. Students should look for the acceptance/denial letter and the link. All students in group presentations need to RSVP.

Editor’s Report: No report.

Moderators: We needed a moderator coordinator and someone to coordinate volunteers. These are organizational commitments mostly on the conference day. The coordinator does not need to be an Honors director. Emily said that the graduate students who helped last year have said they are willing to help in 2026. Emily reported that we cannot shift the conference to later, as some have asked for, because there is a hard cut-off at the SSC at 4:00. Carol volunteered to be the moderator coordinator.

4. Preparing Students for the Conference—a Roundtable:

- Joachin's Honors Club does practice runs in February. They are partnering with MESA, which can become a platform. He also emphasizes presentations in class.
- Kathryn uses a fall student conference—this year's with more than sixty presentations—to springboard participation in research conferences in general.
- Christina reported that they have practice sessions. They invite outside faculty to attend the presentations.
- Jennifer reported that they have practice sessions and get feedback on presentation, posters and PowerPoints. She uses Alannah's moderator video to prepare her moderators.

5. Honors Notation on Transcripts Roundtable:

- Alannah reported this is not a stand-alone v. contract but often stand-alone classes don't populate as Honors on Assist. UCI has communicated with directors. We need to specify with them which students are Honors students who have applied to them. Since transcripts often don't specify Honors, we need to let the institution know.
- Deidre asked about colleges that have changed to Banner. It is not communicating with Parchment, so students are not getting credit for courses taken. Irena has looked into this. Banner says is a temporary issue they should take care of.
- Joachin reports they have to physically type it in. Alannah said the transfer institution won't see this as an attribute.

6. NCHC Conference Share-out:

- Erik reported that it was great to see California colleagues there and
- The order of conferences: New Orleans, Boston and then probably Chicago. It will be one week later in the month. The cost should be similar to this year's conference.

7. BHC Updates:

- The conference will be at Stanford in May. Proposals will be due February 17 and the conference on May 2. The website has not been updated for the conference yet.

8. Items from the Floor:

- Kathryn raised the issue of a STEM track that would include submissions to journals or presentations. UCLA no longer accepts this track. Jody would like HTCC to appeal for a one-year delay on this program to help the students who have followed the previous regimen. Erik said his understanding is that UCLA accepts the standards and definitions that we do. Alannah recommended the colleges involved get a letter from the TAP Council that colleges need a year's notice on changes made in qualifications or programs.

9. Adjournment: We adjourned at 12:30.