



Call for Proposals

American Association of Blacks in Higher Education
2012 National Conference on Blacks in Higher Education
March 22 – 24, 2012
Loews Hotel of Atlanta

Proposal Deadline: 11:59 pm September 19, 2011

Conference Theme

Healthy Communities through Access, Education, Research and Collaboration

The AABHE seeks to build on the knowledge which addresses inequities in the health resulting from the complex interaction of biology, environment (social and physical) and personal lifestyle behaviors. Education is a key social determinant of health. According to the CDC, educational inequalities contribute significantly to health disparities. This includes:

- Inequalities in the proportion/number of trained health professionals
- Inequalities in the direction and focus of research (i.e., research priorities)
- Inequalities in health care access and application of clinical practices
- Inequalities in the access to health information and health literacy

Unhealthy communities reduce the chances for many Black youth to pursue and succeed in higher education. Poor preparation of students and the diminished presence of Black educators in higher education decrease the chances of success for African American students. Reduced rates of successful completion in higher education impact the number of African Americans pursuing careers in teaching and research aimed at improving the health of our communities.

AABHE is seeking presenters to (1) share their best and promising practices for increasing the number of blacks entering and succeeding in health professions (clinical, teaching and research) and (2) showcase their research relevant to improving health in the Black community. Proposals for conference sessions should address one of the following five strands:

STRAND 1: Community health and well being beyond the walls -- Community engagement and research, practice-based research and service learning in Black communities.

This strand focuses on applying and developing knowledge to address health disparities affecting communities. Eligible proposals will report research of importance to promoting health including lifestyles. Examples may include research addressing health disparities, health and community engagement efforts to improve how research is conducted and applied, and strategies to increase participation in practice-based research.

STRAND 2: The personal health and well being of Black faculty, students and staff, an imperative for fostering academic success.

This strand focuses on the health crisis of members of the academic community. Just as in the larger community, Blacks in higher education (students, faculty and staff) are disproportionately impacted by negative health outcomes. Eligible proposals will examine the health issues in blacks in higher education from the varied perspective of student, faculty and/or staff and report on efforts to address the health issues of these groups. Topics include substance use, mental health, violence or other negative health conditions as experienced among blacks in traditionally majority institutions and on HBCU campuses.

STRAND 3: The professional success of Black faculty who teach and advise students interested in and/or pursuing a health professions career.

This strand focuses on the development and support issues of black faculty. Eligible proposals would address career development needs of black faculty in health related disciplines. Examples may include collaborative strategies for improving the effectiveness of teaching and mentoring, increasing external funding (i.e. research) and addressing barriers to promotion and tenure.

STRAND 4: Recruitment, retention and success of Black students in health related fields of study.

This strand focuses on the preparation and development of students. Eligible proposals would describe and report on the findings from efforts to increase awareness and access to health professions for Black students and subsequent success in their respective health professions. Higher education includes the full range of 2 year, 4 year, professional and graduate institutions. Collaborators with higher education could include but are not limited to community organizations, private sector, jobs and career development agencies or non-western health providers.

STRAND 5: Innovative roles for institutions of higher education as drivers of policy, research and development for a healthy Black community.

The strand focuses on how institutions of higher education position themselves and leverage their resources to help empower and develop the infrastructure of community-based organizations, agencies, institutions and private enterprises that impact the health of black communities. Proposals in this area would emphasize institutional strategic initiatives rather than project or programmatic initiatives.

Scholar Moderators

AABHE is also interested in identifying eligible persons to serve as scholar moderators for the presentations. A **Scholar Moderator** will serve as a moderator in one or more of the presentations or panel discussions during the conference. You do not have to submit a proposal or be a presenter to serve as a Scholar Moderator. Instead send a letter of interest indicating a specific strand and stating your expertise and/or interest academic areas, along with a current CV. The conference committee will make the appropriate presentation selections for you to moderate. Your name will be printed in the official program booklet upon receipt of your full conference fees by the deadline date. Graduate students are encouraged to express an interest in serving in this capacity.

Please note: Individuals may be the presenter for more than one presentation and/or poster session, as well as serve as a scholar moderator for sessions in which they are not a presenter.

GUIDELINES FOR PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Please adhere to each of the following guidelines in order to successfully submit a proposal for consideration. To be considered, proposals must contain the information requested in these guidelines. All proposals must be submitted electronically and contain the information listed below. Please forward all proposals and direct all questions to Jacqueline Gardner at jgardner@mmc.edu. You may also reach Ms. Gardner 615.327.6500. Submissions must be received no later than 11:59pm on September 19, 2011.

Formatting Guidelines: The proposal must be prepared using 12pt font and one-inch margins, pages numbered in the lower right hand corner. The submission should also have a running header on each page with the name of the lead presenter and abbreviated title of submission.

Title of Presentation and Strand: Provide the title of your proposed session and indicate the conference strand that reflects the proposal. All persons who are submitting proposals are required to indicate from among the five possible categories the ONE category that most accurately characterizes the proposal.

Presentation Format Requested: Indicate the format (oral or poster presentation). For oral presentations also indicate a requested time allocation for the session (60 or 90 minutes). In deciding on the preferred format and time needed, think realistically about the type of material to be presented, the number of presenters, and the need to allow for questions and discussion following an oral presentation.

- A **60 minute format** is appropriate for presentations on a single topic or a facilitated discussion. This may include an oral presentation of the findings from a research study or the development and implementation of an initiative reflecting promising or best practices relevant to the selected strand. The time frame allows for presentation followed by questions of the presenter.
- A **90-minute format**, as with the 60-minute format, presentations may include research findings or the development and implementation of initiatives reflecting promising or best practices relevant to the selected strand. However, the longer time period is more appropriate for a panel presentation, a workshop style session or facilitated discussion involving significant interaction and processing of content.

- A **Poster Session** is appropriate for display of data, results and processes from a research project or other types of studies. There will be a two-hour block when the presenter will have to be available at his/her display for explanations and questions.

Presenters:

List the name of the presenter(s) and academic credentials (e.g. Ph.D., Ed. D., JD, etc.) exactly as you would like it printed in the conference program. Provide the following contact information for all presenters

- Position/title
- Name of Institution/Organization
- Mailing address (complete with city/state/zip code)
- Day/Office phone number
- Alternative phone number
- Email address

Persons interested in serving as Scholar Moderators, should also provide the requested contact information, as well as submit a CV with their letter of interest. See previous section on Scholar Moderators.

Proposal Narrative

In 1,000 words or less, (a maximum of four single-spaced typed pages), describe the purpose of the session and outline the content. This may include rationale, background and/or historical information, linkage with related efforts and events, measures of effects and/or impact, etc. Your proposal should include objectives and content for your session. State each objective in learner oriented/measurable terms that consist of one action or outcome. (An average of 1-2 objectives per hour is realistic.) Also provide a description of the content to be presented in sufficient detail to determine consistency with objectives, the appropriateness of the amount of time allotted (60 or 90 minutes) and format (i.e., oral or poster presentation). Description of content areas **must be more than restatements of the objectives.**

Program Summary

The Program Summary in 100 words or less, clearly describes your proposed session. If your proposal is selected for an oral or poster presentation, the synopsis will be used in the conference program as your session description.

Important Notice: Presenters are responsible for editing their own program summary to be included in the conference booklet. The program summary should be a clearly written finished piece that has been thoroughly checked for grammar and punctuation. The AABHE editor will only be responsible for delivering a print-ready copy of the conference program to the publisher. Additionally, it is important that persons submitting proposals adhere to the guidelines mentioned above. Failure to adhere to the above guidelines may result in the proposal being disqualified for consideration. In its decision to accept a proposal, AABHE may alter the requested format of the presentation, changing the time allocated for the presentation or the format (e.g., oral presentation to poster presentation).