

COUNCIL ON TEACHING
Follow-Up Report for
Teaching in Higher Education Conference Award

Name: **Barry A. Schreier, Ph.D.**

Department/Unit: **Psychological & Quantitative Foundations**

Conference Attended: **National Conference on Race and Ethnicity (NCORE)**

Date of Conference: **May 29-June 2, 2024**

Award Amount: **\$1500.00**

Briefly summarize how your attendance at the conference enhanced your professional development and allowed you to gain a better understanding of teaching in your discipline or trends in higher education in general.

The NCORE Conference is a one-of-a-kind conference as it is entirely focused on race and ethnicity and the intersectionality of those identities with other identities. Within this frame, NCORE is focused on pedagogy, practical applicability, and theory development regarding intersectional race and ethnicity as it applies specifically to the work conducted on university campuses.

The specific programs I attended were focused on how to be as inclusive around cultural issues and concerns as possible in campus teaching. This was presented alongside what can be framed as the “righteous indignation” on the part of many our students who work to make their important voices known, but can do so in a way that can tear things down rather build them up. Additionally, there was focus on managing classroom disruption when disagreements regarding cultural issues and concerns emerge. In fact, one session I attended had, in real-time, the exact situation arise that the program was designed to address and it was highly useful to watch the facilitator manage the situation as it evolved. Much of this is rooted in trauma informed pedagogy, positive psychology, and the philosophy of the health promoting campus. The NCORE conference provided further framing in how to enact these within the model noted above.

How have you been able to share what you learned about teaching with your department, the University of Iowa, and/or beyond?

I am in the third year of co-leading an Obermann Center Working group. Within this group, we are focused on reconceptualizing the proverbial campus mental health

crisis. I have had numerous opportunities to share the pedagogical and practical lessons I learned at NCORE with the broad cross swatch of members of this group as we discuss matters related to race and ethnicity, how such matters are framed in the classroom, and the impact of all of it on mental health and well-being. Specifically, NCORE presenters were skilled at challenging current norms around race and ethnicity as it is predominantly framed on campuses, but doing so in a way that provided sufficient holding space for participants to tolerate the discomfort that can come with norm challenges. The Obermann Working Group has this exact process at its core.

Additionally, in my own classroom where I teach ethics to doctoral counseling psychology students, I have already leaned into my learning from the NCORE conference to share and challenge with more confidence regarding the current norms of how race and ethnicity must always be framed on campuses to encourage my students to not only see that the current norms are good ones, but are not the only ones. Knowledge is one thing, but confidence with one's knowledge can be "transformative" and is direct benefit for NCORE. This type of conversation can get heated, but with my experience from NCORE, it has helped me more effectively manage this heat, hold the class together, and encourage seeing one's own viewpoint as a good one, but holding space for the idea that it is not the only one. Additionally, once conversation has reached its conclusion, we have the opportunity in class to look at our own process as a way to teach process to the students.

While not specifically asked about in this form, I will also share that a colleague and I also presented at NCORE and shared the work we are doing with Obermann Center Working Group. Also, a tremendous benefit of having attended NCORE through the assistance of the Teaching in Higher Education Conference Award.