

New to Honors?

Welcome to the club! The rest of us were once there, too. The good news is that we are all friendly and that you have a lot of resources at your disposal to help you get up to speed in a new task and in the wonderful world of Honors Education.

1. Get to know the Honors Transfer Council of California (HTCC). This is a consortium of about 50 community college honors programs. Directors and counselors meet several times a semester to share problems and solutions and exchange insights and experiences, and also to have some fun. Everyone in honors education is welcome to attend the meetings, even before your campus has formally joined the group.

A. Check our website (hosted by Mira Costa College) for the date and place of the next meeting. Get in touch with our president: <http://www.honorstcc.org/>

B. Subscribe to the HTCC list-serve, hosted by UCI. This will send you timely information about meetings and much other information. To subscribe, simply send an e-mail to listserv@uci.edu (nb: no “e” on “serv”). In the body of the message, type *subscribe HTC Your Name* and you will start receiving messages (nb also: only one C in HTC).

2. Join the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) and plan to go to the next conference (Denver, November 1-4,2007). The NCHC is the national organization for honors education.

It provides information and services (start-up help, consultants, evaluators, research, reports on trends, etc.) to over 700 member honors-programs. The annual meetings feature sessions on “Beginning in Honors” and consultants’ lounges where you can talk over your problems for free with veteran honors directors. For contact information check the website: <http://www.nchchonors.org/>. The NCHC is now moving to a permanent location at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, with a permanent professional Executive Director who should be on the job as of April 1.

There is a national honors list-serve hosted by George Washington University. To subscribe, send mail to listserv@hermes.circ.gwu.edu and write *sub honors Your Name*.

3. The Western Regional Honors Council (WRHC) is headquartered at the University of Nevada—Reno.

WRHC

c/o University Honors Program

MCC06 3890

1 University of New Mexico

Albuquerque, NM 87131

Check the website for further information. <http://scribendi.umn.edu/wrhc/wrhcindex.htm> .

Plan to attend the annual conference. The next one is April 10-12, in Flagstaff, AZ. For conference information check the conference website: <http://honors.unlv.edu/>

Like all educational enterprises, Honors Education is all about belonging to a community of teachers and students who share common values and goals. So get to know the people who share your values and goals. Come to the next HTCC meeting—it is free! And make plans to come to an NCHC or WRHC conference. You are not alone, and most of us have faced most of the problems you do.