

# The Scholar-Practitioner

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A publication of R is for Thursday Collective

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Oklahoma State University



## National Conference for Hidden Student Populations

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<https://nchp.okstate.edu>

### Current Hidden College Student Populations

May include those who have foster care histories, justice-involved experiences, who are survivors of sexual violence or sex workers, recovering substances addicts, who face housing insecurity, who are considered Third Culture Kids/Individuals, who have sought/seeking abortion care, or who have undergone or are in the process of gender reassignment.

### NCHP Conference Fellows

Dr. Jennifer Geiger,  
University of Illinois, Chicago

Dr. Royel Johnson,  
University of Southern California

Dr. Kerri Kearney,  
Oklahoma State University

Dr. Megan Piel,  
University of Texas, San Antonio

Dr. Lori Tiller,  
University of Georgia

Dr. Lisa Will,  
Oklahoma State University



**The Scholar-Practitioner** is a monthly publication of research summaries that targets the research-to-practice-to-research gap for U.S. scholar and practitioner advocates for hidden college student populations.

This publication reinforces the work of the **National Conference for Hidden Student Populations (NCHP)** by providing a space to share research applications for practice. **NCHP** was the first research conference dedicated to this multidisciplinary area of study.

**The NCHP 4th conference**, hybrid format, was held February 28 - March 1, 2024, at University of Texas—San Antonio. In this special edition we bring you highlights of the conference that gathered researchers and practitioners from multiple U.S. states who discussed the challenges faced by hidden student populations within the higher education system.

## 2024 National Conference for Hidden Student Populations (NCHP)

The **NCHP** mission is to create a translational research space to identify and address critical issues impacting students with foster care experiences and other social journeys that often lead to being hidden in the system of higher education.

The 2024 **NCHP** provided diverse spaces for the attendees to engage in collaborative work and networking. This time, the conference was held in a hybrid format allowing additional people to attend the presentations online and participate remotely. The conference included six presentations as follows:

**"I'd Rather Rely on Myself": Understanding Risk and Resilience in College Students from Foster Care's Approach to Help-Seeking.** Authors: *Chloe Lancaster and Michelle Brasfield*. The purpose of this research was to explore the internalized attitudes and beliefs of students from foster care (SFCs) toward help-seeking and their influence on their help-seeking behaviors in college.

**Educational Advocacy Through the College-Bound Docket.** Author: *Megan Piel, Cindy Alvarado, Desven Greenberg, and Malorie DeLeon*. This session discussed preliminary findings from a qualitative study on a pre-college initiative.

**Navigating Politics While Conducting Research.** Author: *Lisa Schelbe*. This presentation began with examples from various studies impacted by agency and state politics. The presenter discussed strategies used to deal with the encountered challenging situations.

**Programs and Practices to Promote College Access for Hidden College Populations.** Authors: *Kalah Villagrana, Justine Cheung, and Jennifer Geiger*. This presentation described the existing efforts at Arizona State University, lessons learned, and recommendations related to campus-based programs to support youth in foster care at postsecondary institutions.

### Academic and Non-Profit/ Practitioner Partnerships:

**Collaborations that can make a difference.** *Author: Justine Cheung.* This session discussed how collaborative efforts between institutions of higher education and non-profit agencies and/or practitioners can advance understanding of factors that impact hidden populations and identify best practices for providing impactful services.

### Estimating a National College Enrollment Rate with NYTD: Shortfalls and Potential Fixes.

*Author: Nathanael Okpych.* The presentation gave an example of how NYTD questions could be altered to estimate findings that will enable researchers, policy-makers, advocates, and administrators to accurately gauge PSE enrollment rates, disparities, and policy impacts.

The 2024 **NCHP** also included six think tank sessions:

### Mattering and Socially Just Leadership.

*Facilitators: Lisa Schelbe and Lisa Jackson.*

**Understanding and Bridging  
Nurture Gaps with Students with  
Foster Care Experience Pursuing  
Higher Education: Practice- and  
Evidence-Informed Practice  
Guidelines.** *Facilitator: Maddy Day and Jamie Bennett.*

**Reimagining the National  
Campus Support Program  
Guide.** *Facilitator: Sheila Bustillos.*

**Transition to Work.** *Facilitator: Kerri Kearney.*

**Statewide Backbone Networks –  
Best Practices.** *Facilitator: Lori Tiller.*

**Brainstorming Outlets for Funding  
on Hidden College Populations.**  
*Facilitator: Jennifer Geiger.*

The 2024 conference housed the traditional sessions for the **NCHP Teams**. This time, three new teams and two continuing teams were seated. These five multidisciplinary teams comprised 33 researchers and practitioners from colleges and universities in 13 U.S. states (Arizona, Arkansas, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, Michigan, Nevada, Oklahoma,

Rhode Island, Texas, Washington, and Wisconsin). **Teams** are working on different approaches to address some of the identified research gaps and/or needs and their work in progress is related to the incidence of ACEs, trauma, and hidden populations; systematic review of foster youth college attainment literature; racial, ethnic, and cultural identity development of former foster youth in post-secondary education; Georgia ETV data, Georgia ILP-eligible baseline data, state-wide public campus resource inventory, and summer pre-collegiate programs; and engagement with a campus-based support program for former foster care students.

We thank the host of the 4th **NCHP**, the University of Texas—San Antonio, with particular appreciation for the social networking event that included wonderful Texas food and a live mariachi band.

The **2025 NCHP** conference will be held February 25 - 28, 2025, at Arizona State University. **[Call for proposals](https://risforthursday.okstate.edu)** is now open.

## *A special thank you to the 2024 Conference Sponsors*



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