



2026 Call for Proposals

The **2026 Contemplative Practices for Higher Education (CPHE) Conference** offers an opportunity for higher education professionals, students and others who are using or interested in learning more about contemplative practices and contemplative pedagogy to gather to share new work and explore new methods across disciplines and domains. We invite teachers and professors, researchers, students, contemplative practitioners and others who are interested in contemplative pedagogy and practice in education. This gathering is sponsored by **C-HEARTS** (the Contemplative Higher Education Alliance for Research, Teaching, and Services).

Proposals are due by 11:59 pm Eastern Time US on Monday, November 10, 2025.
[Conference Website](#) | [More About C-HEARTS](#).

The conference will be hosted at the Virginia Tech campus in Blacksburg, VA with nearby lodging available at a block room rate. If you have registration or funding questions, please reach out to one of the co-chairs: Dr. Matthew Komelski (komelski@vt.edu) or Dr. Samantha Harden (harden.samantha@vt.edu).

Suggested areas include, but are not limited to:

- Contemplative pedagogy & practice (CPP) in higher education across all disciplines: arts, humanities, medicine, professional schools; social, biological, physical sciences; technology
- Leadership and management (e.g., university administration, campus-wide initiatives)
- Contemplative Arts
- Health and wellness, including trauma-informed practices
- Antiracism, inclusion, and other social justice efforts

- The environment and sustainability
- Student communities and student life
- Campus mindfulness

Registration Requirements: If your proposal is accepted, each presenter must register for the conference. The conference does not pay presenters honoraria, reimburse expenses (e.g., travel, lodging, or copying), or waive conference registration fees.

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING

We encourage submissions by professionals, graduate/professional students, and undergraduates, including joint endeavors between students and faculty/staff as well as individual work.

Submissions must be completed using [THE 2026 PROPOSALS FORM](#).

Please submit an application for one of the following session formats:

General Session - 60 minutes

Interactive presentations/workshops addressing some aspect of contemplative approaches in pedagogy (any field or discipline), curriculum, student affairs, student health, leadership/organizational development in higher education, or issues of major societal import. Sessions may include 1 or 2 presenters. General sessions should incorporate presenter remarks as well as active or experiential elements, such as contemplative practice(s). The facilitator should incorporate time for discussion/Q&A. **To Apply: Please indicate the session's purpose, goals, and expected learning outcomes for participants.**

Student-focused or Student-led Session - 30 minutes

These sessions focus specifically on students as their audience – or students (undergraduate, graduate or professional) as the presenters to share contemplative practice or pedagogy in which they are engaged. These sessions can take many forms. Sessions may include 1 or 2 presenters. Topics might include student-specific content, self-care and wellbeing, community engagement, or contemplative approaches to learning or campus life. Sessions focused on contemplative practices in health care education and/or patient care are welcomed. **To Apply: Please clearly state how the session will involve student participation and/or target student audiences, including a statement of the session's purpose, goals, and expected learning outcomes for participants.**

Research Talk - 30 minutes

This type of presentation includes one paper or talk (preferably not read to the audience) on a focused topic for 20 minutes, with 10 minutes added for Q&A. Presenters can be professionals (faculty/staff), graduate/professional students, or undergraduate students. **To Apply: Research questions/hypotheses should be clearly articulated and address important questions relating to contemplative approaches in higher education. Significance of the problem**

should be justified. Please indicate the session's purpose and expected learning outcomes for participants.

Panel Discussion- 60 minutes

The panel should contain at least 3 panelists. This type of session includes brief opening presentations (5-7 minutes) from individual panelists on a selected topic and then discussion among those same panelists. Please note that a panel focuses on panelists' presentation and interaction with one another, while a roundtable focuses on presenter-audience interaction. Please allow 10-15 minutes for audience Q&A and discussion. **To Apply: Please provide a detailed description of the session, listing all proposed panelists, explaining the relationship to contemplative practices, and the anticipated format of the session. Clearly indicate how the session will benefit attendees.**

Roundtable Conversation- 60 minutes

A roundtable should consist of 2 or more participants who have a topic to explore. The roundtable presenters begin by making brief (3-5 minutes per person) opening remarks about a selected topic, and the remainder of the session should feature interaction with the audience. Please note that, while a panel focuses on panelists' presentation and interaction with one another, a roundtable focuses on presenter-audience interaction. **To Apply: Please provide a description of the session topic, clearly explaining the relationship to contemplative practices and how it will benefit the audience.**

Contemplative Practice Session - 60 minutes

A Practice Session should include only **brief remarks** to provide context, and then focus on audience members learning to do something in a participatory way. Almost all of the period must be given over to group participation in the chosen contemplative practice. Allow time for processing and sharing. **To Apply: Please provide a description of the practice, grounded in a framework based on literature and include one or more references for the materials and/or approach used for the practice. Describe intended learning outcomes and anticipated benefits for the participants.**

Poster Presentation

Poster sessions are designed to allow summaries of research and scholarship through engaged, individual conversation. May have 1 or more submitters. The poster should include all relevant information, brief presentation/discussion by the presenter (2-5 minutes), and then informal discussion. Posters will be on display throughout the conference with presenters available for questions during a scheduled conference time. ***This is a great opportunity for student presenters and works-in-progress.*** **To Apply: Please clearly state the focus of the poster (e.g., project, course, research, contemplative practice), including a statement of goals and objectives.**

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