

# 2024 NCHC Board of Directors Application

Response ID:30 Data

## 1. Nominee Contact Information

### 1. Applicant Information

**First Name**

Donna

**Last Name**

Clevinger

**Institution**

Mississippi State University

**Email Address****Professional Title**

Senior Faculty Fellow and Professor of Communication/Theatre

**Mailing Address****Apt/Suite/Office****City**

Mississippi State

**State**

MS

**Zip**

39762

**Country****Phone Number****Fax Number****Mobile Phone****URL**

### 2. Please indicate your membership in NCHC:

I have a professional membership in addition to our institutional membership

### 3. What type of institution do you serve or attend?

Very Large Four-Year Institution (15,000+ undergraduates)

#### 4. What region is your institution in?

See here to find your region: <https://www.nchchonors.org/resources/regional-honors>

Southern

#### 5. Which NCHC Officer/Board of Directors Position you are applying for?

For details on the roles and responsibilities of the different positions, see the NCHC Constitution and Bylaws: [https://www.nchchonors.org/uploaded/NCHC\\_FILES/PDFs/NCHC\\_Constitution\\_Bylaws\\_approved\\_2022.pdf](https://www.nchchonors.org/uploaded/NCHC_FILES/PDFs/NCHC_Constitution_Bylaws_approved_2022.pdf)

Professional at-Large Member (3-year term)

#### 6. Please indicate the nominee's qualifications as outlined in the NCHC Candidate Guidebook.

I have served as an NCHC committee member

Committee(s) served - Write In: Advocacy; Awards and Grants

I have served on an external board: American Association of University Administrators; Mississippi Alliance for Arts Education; Ohio Alliance for Arts Education; Southwest Theatre Association; Texas Educational Theatre Association; Powerhouse of Southeastern Ohio, Inc.

## 2. Student Applicants

Please list the leadership roles you have had on campus. (Include roles and dates).

Please identify trends, challenges, or opportunities you think the National Collegiate Honors Council must address as the needs of students seeking an honors education continue to change.

In 250-300 words, please explain the strengths you can contribute as a member of the NCHC Board of Directors and your goals for service in the NCHC. (This statement will be published alongside your photo on the NCHC election ballot.)

## 3. Professional Applicants

7. Please list your professional positions in honors education with roles (teaching, administration, etc.) and dates. Please make sure 3 years of service are clearly indicated.

For over 25 years, I have been involved (on and off) in honors education while serving at various college/university settings (two year, comprehensive, research) as a faculty member and administrator. After moving to the main campus of Mississippi State University (MSU) from serving as dean of its regional campus, I was asked to join the Shackouls Honors College in 2013 by its then dean, Dr. Christopher Snyder, as its first fulltime Senior Faculty Fellow and Professor.

The Shackouls Honors College is where I now teach and develop a variety of courses for the honors curriculum. It is where I advise and mentor honors students and participate in faculty, staff, and student gatherings, convocations, ceremonies, and meetings, besides representing honors at various functions across the university campus. It is where I have created and developed our annual award-winning Honors Classical Week of theatre and arts related activities (also beginning in 2013) and the yearlong Orators Lecture series (beginning in 2016), that brings scholars, representing various collegiate and professional areas, to campus to engage our honors community and beyond.

During the pandemic in 2020, I laid the groundwork for an honors student organization with the purpose of presenting arts related presentations throughout the year, often by non-arts majors. The first public event took place in 2021. In 2023, representing a variety of artistic talents, backgrounds, ethnicities, and major fields of study, students came together to present our first honors Rites of Spring Week, a celebration of various arts presentations for our honors college, the university, and the community.

Since 2018, I "carry the honors flag" to other educational organizations (Society for Classical Studies and the Classical Society

of the Middle West and South) where I participate in national and regional conferences.

**8. Please list your service to NCHC or regional honors organizations with roles and dates. (Include committee membership, board membership, leadership positions, etc.)**

The former dean of the honors college appointed various staff members to oversee state and SEC regional honors meetings. I participated in our regional meeting in 2015 when it was held at MSU and was appointed to attend the meeting scheduled in Lexington, KY in 2020. This meeting, of course, was cancelled due to the pandemic.

In 2016, I was invited by the former Dean of the Shackouls Honors College, Dr. Christopher Snyder, to attend my first NCHC conference, which was held in Seattle. My membership in NCHC began at that time. I not only attended the conference, but also chaired and participated in a General Session. From this presentation came an article published in the NCHC Newsletter. At that same conference, a new Arts Master Class--Drama Facilitator was needed. I volunteered. I have served in this capacity since that time, excluding the pandemic year. I also have continued presenting conference presentations.

At the NCHC yearly meetings:

Arts Master Class Workshop and Showcase-Drama Facilitator since 2016 Seattle.

Judge for Student Poster Sessions since 2017 Atlanta.

As a Phi Kappa Phi, attended the society's meetings since 2017 Atlanta.

Attended Special interest Group Southeastern Conference (SEC) Honors Meeting since 2016 Seattle.

Attended Regional Meetings of the Southern Regional Honors Council Meetings (SRHC) since 2016 Seattle.

Due to a change in administration at my home institution and the needs of my honors college surrounding that event, my service to committees began with Advocacy-since 2021 and Awards and Grants-since 2021.

**9. Please list your involvement in presenting or publishing on honors education. (Include presentations at honors conferences and/or publications in JNCHC, HIP, or the NCHC Monographs.)**

In 2016, I attended my first NCHC conference, which was held in Seattle. Besides attending, I chaired and participated in the General Session-Innovation and Best Practices in Honors Education that was entitled: Put a Little Drama in Your Life---At Least in Your Honors Program. From this presentation came an article printed in the NCHC Newsletter. That same conference, Brent Register needed a NCHC Drama Facilitator for the Arts Master Class Workshops and Showcase and I volunteered. I have served in this capacity since that time, excluding the pandemic year. I have also continued with conference presentations:

2017-Atlanta: Arts Master Class Workshop and Showcase—Drama Facilitator Master Class for Readers' Theatre—Moderator.

2018-Boston: Arts Master Class Workshop and Showcase—Drama Facilitator Special Event—Participated in Story Slam; not selected for Friday's performance.

2019-New Orleans: Arts Master Class Workshop and Showcase—Drama Facilitator Panel Presentation—Doing the Arts in Honors—Participant. Danced with the Second Line Friday night!

2020-Virtual NCHC: Participated in NCHC20 Virtual Events A student intensive feature presentation: Panel--Doing the Arts in Honors—Participant. Roundtable—Tailgating with the Classics: Creating Annual Events to Increase Campus Visibility and Diverse Community Relationships—Moderator and Participant.

2021-Orlando: Arts Master Class Workshop and Showcase—Drama Facilitator

Roundtable—Techies and Artists-Scientists and Humanists: Home Together in Honors—Participant.

Student in Honors: Come and Go Roundtable on "Elevator Introductions"—Participant.

2022-Dallas: Arts Master Class Workshop and Showcase—Drama Facilitator

Experiential Learning & Co-Curriculum Programming Roundtable—Through Students' Eyes-Building Communities in Honors—Participant with MSU Students.

2023-Chicago Plan: Arts Master Class Workshop and Showcase—Drama Facilitator

General Session-Arts Integration in the Honors Curriculum: Putting the 'A' in STEAM—Participant. Participation in Engage Breakfast as part of NCHC's Signature programming in the Arts.

A submission to Honors in Practice (HIP) publication in 2016. Unfortunately, it was not recommended for publication.

A submission to the monthly NCHC Newsletter entitled, Put a Little Drama in Your Life---At Least in Your Honors Program, generated from the 2016 conference presentation, was published in early 2017 (as I recall).

**10. Please identify trends, challenges, or opportunities you think the National Collegiate Honors Council must address as the needs of students seeking an honors education continue to change.**

Continue to lead the way in honors advocacy---loudly and often! NCHC provides insights, through challenges, for all members to be able to tell the story of how honors add value to both students and faculty.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion continues to be a work-in-progress across honors education. There can never be enough programs, sessions, discussion groups, zoom meetings, or conferences to promote this. NCHC has and should continue to provide opportunities and new ways to attract and keep students from all talents and backgrounds.

Experiential Learning has become the calling card for many educational institutions in the last few years. Partnering with other campus, community, business, and other entities both near and far that will engage and promote the changing environment and student success stories. Over the years, NCHC programming has reflected this trend. Let's build on opportunities to begin and/or expand into individual honors programs and communities.

Funding opportunities for our programs, colleges, and our students are always a challenge. There never seems to be enough funds to do what we want or need. Finding new funding sources and keeping established sources remains a top priority.

How does an honors college continue to fulfill its mission when STEM/pre-professional majors are growing and students are entering universities with much of their general education requirements satisfied through AP, etc.? With the changing demographics (41% of honors at MSU are engineers), the need to think critically about how honors can evolve to serve these students in transformative ways is an ongoing challenge.

Internal, external, prestigious, competitive, and other scholarships and internships will continue to become more competitive. NCHC, along with honors colleges and programs, should continue to work in sharing best practices across campus and regions. This is done by creating and introducing opportunities and incentives, both inside and outside the classroom environment, for students to continue their education as it reflects their talents, new fields of discoveries, and connects with their life's path.

Opportunities or challenges with AI? Coming to grips with artificial intelligence across all levels of our society, and in honors education, is probably the single most cautionary concern ahead. What will honors look like with AI in our future? By the way, I, not AI, answered this question!

**11. In 250-300 words, please explain the strengths you can contribute as a member of the NCHC Board of Directors and your goals for service in the NCHC. (This statement will be published alongside your photo on the NCHC election ballot.)**

My passion for the arts is the center of my life. Honors is my fulltime collegiate home. It is where I create arts and arts-integrated courses for honors curriculums, involve students in experiential learning, and where I develop partnerships across campus and beyond to advocate for arts and honors education. It is where I offer opportunities to expand a student's research and discovery options through annual award-winning activities, and scholarly lectures that engage students no matter their field of study. It is where I formed a student arts organization that showcases the artistic talents of predominately non-arts majors from various backgrounds and ethnicities in a week of creative performances. These pathways for student success are at the core of a meaningful honors experience.

These activities benefited from internal and external funding opportunities. I bring my student-centered experience in implementing and resourcing these activities to the Board. My commitment to student success in the arts has led me to endow a yearly scholarship for honors students at my institution.

Expanding growth for creative expression through arts-integrated experiences has defined my campus and conference participation and has helped me form friendships across interdisciplinary lines. As a Board member, I will support articles about the arts in NCHC's Newsletters and the formation of a Committee for the Arts in Honors.

I am committed to NCHC's good management practices and the inclusive standards toward strengthening enrollment and student success challenges. These have informed my approach to honors education since I began-fulltime-in honors over a decade ago.

Coming to grips with artificial intelligence is one of the most important challenges ahead. What will honors education look like with AI in our future? The future is now and so is NCHC! I would like to offer my thoughts and service to NCHC as your Board member.

## 4. Application Details

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**12. Please note any key skills or interests you can contribute toward implementation of the strategic initiatives noted below.**

Organizational Excellence : Interested/Skills as a former administrator and current faculty member.

Advocacy : Interested/Skills in advocacy practice.

Research : Interested/Skills in Creative Discovery and Research  
Diversity & Inclusion : Always interested to learn new initiatives.

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### 13. Candidate Photo

Please attach a recent head shot we may use in publicizing your candidacy for the NCHC Board of Directors. Please keep in mind, this photo will be used across our communication platforms in announcing our NCHC Board of Directors candidates, so we recommend uploading a high-resolution photo of yourself.

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### 14. Letter of Support

Please upload an institutional letter of support (from the institution's Chief Academic Officer (professional nominees) or honors dean/director (student nominees)). This letter should indicate support for your nomination and service on the Board, which may include financial support and permission to attend NCHC Board of Directors meetings and do the work of the position.

[Clevinger\\_Nomination\\_Letter.pdf](#)

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## 5. Thank You!

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### New Send Email

May 25, 2023 18:27:15 Success: Email Sent to: nchc@unl.edu

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