

# 2024 NCHC Board of Directors Application

Response ID:54 Data

## 1. Nominee Contact Information

### 1. Applicant Information

**First Name**

Daniel

**Last Name**

Roberts

**Institution**

Virginia State University

**Email Address**

**Professional Title**

Dean

**Mailing Address**

**Apt/Suite/Office**

**City**

Cheser

**State**

VA

**Zip**

23836

**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?

Medium Four-Year Institution(4,000-9,999 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)

Vice-President

#### 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: Assessment and Evaluation, and International

I have served on the NCHC Board of Directors (VP / Executive Candidates Only)

## 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.

- Dean, 2021-present, Virginia State University Honors College
- Director, 2012-2021, Virginia State University Honors Program
- Lead a college with just over 800 students (more than doubled the size since 2012)
- Launched a new living-learning community (a large residence hall) for the Honors Program (now College) in fall 2017, bringing together more than 500 beds (all freshmen and sophomore honors students), administrative offices, classrooms, and meeting spaces.
- Strengthened University scholarship commitments to Honors students by more than 1.5M per year
- Grew Honors College endowed funding by more than \$600,000.
- Created and launched the VSU Honors College Engaged Learning Award for Honors (ELAH), which provides students with annual paid placement experiences to prepare them for graduate school and/ or careers. More than 400 students participate annually at 60-80 different placement sites mostly on campus.
- Developed a bi-annual faculty led service-learning program for Honors students to Morocco
- Established an exchange partnership between VSU Honors and Hertford College of the University of Oxford.

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

- Professional board member for NCHC, 2022-2024
- NCHC approved Program Reviewer, 2016- present

- Member, NCHC International Education Committee, 2014- present
- Member, NCHC Assessment and Evaluation Committee, 2016 - present
- Presented posters and served on panels at NCHC annual conferences, 2015- present
- Member, National Association of African American Honors Programs, 2012- present
- Member, European Honors Council, 2018- present
- Member, Southern Regional Honors Council, 2012- present
- Executive Committee, Virginias Collegiate Honors Council, 2015- 2021
- President, Virginias Collegiate Honors Council, 2015-2017
- Conference Chair and Host, Virginias Collegiate Honors Council, 2014
- Conference Co-Chair and Host, Emerging Leaders Workshop (12 HBCU Honors Programs), 2016

**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.)**

"Moving from Crosstalk to Partnership in Building a Vibrant Honors Living Community" November 2-5, 2022. At the Annual National Collegiate Honors Conference, Dallas, TX.

"The Rise of a Nationwide Collaborative of Honors Colleges and Programs from Public Institutions" October 27-31, 2021. At the Annual National Colleague Honors Conference, Orlando, FL.

"Honors Community Building in a Time of Social Isolation" October-November, 2020. At the 55th Annual National Collegiate Honors Conference; held virtually.

"Leadership and State-Level Honors Organizations" November 8-12, 2017. At the 52nd Annual National Collegiate Honors Conference; Atlanta, GA.

"Leading honors education at the state and regional level. A case study of the Virginias Collegiate Honors Council" November 8-12, 2017. At the 52nd Annual National Collegiate Honors Conference; Atlanta, GA.

"Using interdisciplinary teams of honors students to solve problems for small manufacturers in Virginia" October 12-16, 2016. At the 51st Annual National Collegiate Honors Conference; Seattle, WA.

"The Incorporation of Civic Engagement as a Pillar of Virginia State University's Honors Program" November 11-14, 2015. At the 50th Annual National Collegiate Honors Conference; Chicago, IL.

"Best Practices in Honors Education: Sustaining Enrollment and Retention" August 8, 2014. At the 15th Annual Emerging Leaders Workshop; Roanoke, VA.

Appel H, Bott-Knutson R, Hart J, Knox P, Radasanu A, Fine L, Nichols T, Roberts D, Zeigler W, Kotinek J, Garbutt K, Cooke K, Keen R, Anderson M, Kapur J. 2023. Teaching and Learning in the Fourth Space: Preparing Scholars to Engage in Solving Community Problems. JNCHC Monograph Series issue "Honors Colleges". Accepted for publication.

**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.**

The recent COVID pandemic changed many aspects of higher education; it did not, however, diminish the importance or place of honors in higher education. Rather, I would suggest, it served to highlight the relevance of key aspects of honors education that we easily recognize as foundational, such as the centrality of 'belonging,' innovation, interdisciplinarity, creativity, our embrace of different learning styles, and the pursuit of excellence in all of its many forms.

Yes, students and the student experience have changed because of COVID, and honors must evolve in tandem. Honors must continue to meet our students where they are; we must embrace hybrid learning environments, and we must continue to monitor our students' health and mental well-being more than ever. Honors must unapologetically continue, however, to push the

boundaries of knowledge, provide innovative learning environments, and seek to enhance the educational experiences of our students. Honors remains an essential haven within the higher education landscape for students (with faculty and staff) to pursue excellence.

**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.)**

The success of the National Collegiate Honors Council requires the full participation and engagement of everyone; NCHC is something less than the leading organization for honors education when institutions and groups are not represented, underrepresented or ignored from within.

Throughout my more than ten years of service in honors education, I have been fortunate to have served at a Historically Black University (HBCU) and been able to work in roles that have supported the strengthening of honors education at fellow HBCUs. I have also served in leadership capacities, including the presidency, for two terms, of the regional Virginias Collegiate Honors Council (Virginia + West Virginia). My participation in the Honors International Faculty Institute in collaboration with the European Honors Council (ECH) in the Netherlands and subsequent membership have allowed me to experience how honors can appear and function differently in multiple countries around the world.

Because of these different experiences and perspectives on honors education, I am acutely aware that regardless of how honors is organized, honors is at its very core inclusive of all. I believe this strongly and am very comfortable serving as an advocate as well as a leader for inclusive excellence in honors education. I would like to use my position as Vice President to assist in strengthening, where possible, the relationships between NCHC and the regional councils, the National Association of African American Honors Programs (NAAHP), state-level councils, and other emerging US and international honors groupings. I believe there are multiple areas in which direct cooperation would bolster collaborating organizations, all while strengthening honors education.

I would welcome with enthusiasm the opportunity to bring my voice and passion for honors education to the position of NCHC Vice President!

#### 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 :** I was an active participant in the creation of the past two strategic plans at Virginia State University. This experience taught me much about the importance of broad participation and engagement when seeking long-term institutional level changes. My work with the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia allowed me to understand the management of academic programming across all of the public universities of Virginia. This macro level view of higher education allowed me to appreciate the importance of long-term planning and the coordination of loosely connected institutions. And further, over the past two years, I have served as a PI for a four-year NIH team science award between VSU and the VCU Massey Cancer Center. This work has informed my own thinking about cross-institutional partnerships and excellence in the organization of largely remote collaborations.

**Advocacy :** From my academic background in public policy and political science, I am both knowledgeable and interested in the legislative and funding aspects of advocacy. I have participated in advocacy events with NAFSA: Association of International Educators in Washington, DC as well as with Virginia State University in Richmond, VA. The NAFSA efforts were principally centered on on-going funding for international education programs within the State Department (e.g., Fulbright and Gillman) as well as the long-sought Paul Simon international study abroad legislation. In Richmond, the advocacy efforts, which included students, focused on affordable public education in Virginia and specific funding requests for Virginia State University. I was also a participant in the 2017 roundtable with Congressman Bobby Scott, organized by past NCHC President Dr. Barry Falk, on the status of honors education in Virginia. As a dean I have also come to understand and become skilled in the role of advocacy within my university. This internal advocacy is largely with respect to internal and external resources, but also in policy decisions that impact honors as a part of the larger university.

**Research :** From my work within the Office of the Provost at Virginia State University, I recognize the importance and place of

research in the university and the academy more generally. Continued efforts to cultivate and encourage research in the relatively new field of honors education is very important. NCHC must continue to invest in this work and help to encourage formative research lines, which will help further define the academic space of honors. Over the past three years, I have worked with a sub-committee of the APLU Council on Honors Education (CoHE) on a collaborative research effort of 15 honors programs and colleges. The project seeks to strengthen student experiences across honors experiences and has received more than \$750,000 of support from the United States Department of Agriculture for 2023-2025.

**Professional Development :** Like research, professional development is a key area for NCHC to invest as it is essential to help strengthen, define and distinguish the field. I have participated in NCHC professional development programs in Lincoln on two occasions; both of these were excellent. I believe much broader efforts are needed, however, to help provide professional development opportunities to honors staff on a much more local and on-demand basis. Professional development that is developed and which focuses upon specific relevant skills to honors education will only serve to enhance the standing of the field and strengthen the qualifications of its participants. Professional development must also be extended to the NCHC as a vehicle for their growth and to strengthen their skills as they relate to managing our national organization.

**Diversity & Inclusion :** I believe very strongly in the importance of diversity and inclusion (and equity). NCHC is correct to see this as a key strategic initiative as I believe it is central to the future of the organization and its ability to speak for honors education in the United States and globally. Much effort is needed, however, to allow honors education to become more diverse, inclusive and equitable. I believe my experiences working with HBCU honors programs through NAAHP and the Emerging Leaders Workshops are both relevant to this work and effort. As an organization, we should seek to promote DEI within honors spaces across our membership.

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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.**

[daniel\\_roberts\\_crop\[1\].jpg](#)

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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.**

[NCHC\\_Institutional\\_Support\\_Letter.pdf](#)

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## 5. Thank You!

### New Send Email

Jun 09, 2023 19:01:39 Success: Email Sent to: nchc@unl.edu

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