

2024 NCHC Board of Directors Application

Response ID:59 Data

1. Nominee Contact Information

1. Applicant Information

First Name

Thomas

Last Name

Spencer

Institution

Texas A&M University-Kingsville

Email Address

Professional Title

Dean of the Honors College

Mailing Address

Apt/Suite/Office

City

Kingsville

State

TX

Zip

78363

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>

Great Plains

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

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 (co)-chair

Committee(s) served - Write In: External Relations/Teaching and Learning/Advocacy/Professional Development

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.

2008-2012 Director of the Honors Program, Northwest Missouri State University

2012-2017 Director of Honors Student Affairs, Pine Honors College, Eastern Illinois University

2017-Present Dean of the Honors College, Texas A&M University-Kingsville

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

Co-Chair, Advocacy Committee, NCHC, 2023-Present

Alternate Member, NCHC Executive Director Search Committee, 2022-Present

Co-Chair, BHAP, NCHC, 2022-Present

Member, Planning Committee, 2023 NCHC Conference, 2022-Present

Member, Professional Development Committee, 2022-Present

Member, Advocacy Committee, 2018-Present

Teaching & Learning Committee, 2010-2021

External Relations Committee, 2010-2013

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.)

Jeffrey Chamberlain, Thomas M. Spencer, and Jefford Vahlbusch. "It is What You Make It: Opportunities Arising from the

Unique Roles of Honors Deans." forthcoming in The Comprehensive Guide to Honors Colleges edited by Richard Badenhausen. Lincoln: National Collegiate Honors Council, 2023. NCHC Monograph Series.

Panelist, "Honors Advocacy: How to Talk to Different Audiences (Both On and Off Campus)," Developing in Honors, Advocacy Committee Session, National Collegiate Honors Council Conference, Dallas, Texas, November 3, 2022.

Panelist, "'It is What You Make of It': The Hybrid Role of an Honors Dean and the Unique Opportunities it Affords," General Session, National Collegiate Honors Council Conference, Orlando, Florida, October 26-31, 2021.

Panelist "Honors Advocacy: How to Talk to Your Provost (and other key people on campus)," Developing in Honors, Advocacy Committee Session, National Collegiate Honors Council Conference, Orlando, Florida, October 26-31, 2021.

Panelist, "Honors Advocacy on Campus," Developing in Honors, Advocacy Committee Session, National Collegiate Honors Council Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana, November 5-9, 2019.

Consultant, Admissions and Recruiting, Growing Honors Programs, and Honors Thesis, NCHC Consultants Center, National Collegiate Honors Council Conference, Boston, Massachusetts, November 7-11, 2018.

Panelist, "The Rookie Year: Reflections of Three (New) Honors Deans," General Session, National Collegiate Honors Council Conference, Boston, Massachusetts, November 7-11, 2018.

Facilitator, "STEM in the Honors Curriculum," Developing in Honors, National Collegiate Honors Council Conference, Boston, Massachusetts, November 7-11, 2018.

Facilitator, "Breakout: Specifics Related to Honors Programs and Honors Colleges," Meeting of Honors Deans and Directors representing Texas Public Universities, Austin, Texas, July 19, 2018.

Panelist, "Getting Your Message Out to Stakeholders," Developing in Honors, National Collegiate Honors Council Conference, Atlanta, Georgia, November 8-12, 2017.

Panelist, "Evidence-Based Teaching and Learning," Honors Workshop, National Collegiate Honors Council Conference, Atlanta, Georgia, November 8-12, 2017.

Panelist, "Developing Democracy in the Age of Alternative Facts," Honors Roundtable, National Collegiate Honors Council Conference, Atlanta, Georgia, November 8-12, 2017.

Panelist, "Knowing Your Institution: Recruitment from the Ground Up," General Session, National Collegiate Honors Council Conference, Seattle, Washington, October 12-16, 2016.

Panelist, "Student Publications and Communications," Developing in Honors, National Collegiate Honors Council Conference, Seattle, Washington, October 12-16, 2016.

Facilitator, "Social Media Bootcamp," National Collegiate Honors Council Conference, Seattle, Washington, October 12-16, 2016.

Panelist, "Articulation of Department/School-based Honors and University-Wide Honors," Developing in Honors, National Collegiate Honors Council Conference, Chicago, Illinois, November 11-15, 2015.

Faculty Facilitator, "Graduate School Search Process," Students in Honors, National Collegiate Honors Council Conference, Chicago, Illinois, November 11-15, 2015.

Panelist, "Honors Recruitment, Retention, and Social Media," General Session, National Collegiate Honors Council Conference, Denver, Colorado, November 5-9, 2014.

Panelist, "Developing a Unique Identity for your Honors Program or College," Developing in Honors, National Collegiate Honors Council Conference, Denver, Colorado, November 5-9, 2014.

Panelist, "Honors College Recruiting in the 21st Century," General Session, National Collegiate Honors Council Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana, November 8, 2013.

Panelist, "National Student Exchange and Honors," Developing in Honors, National Collegiate Honors Council Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana, November 7, 2013.

Panelist, "Faculty Development for Honors Pedagogy," Developing in Honors, National Collegiate Honors Council Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana, November 7, 2013.

Panelist, "Celebration of Teaching and Learning Forum," National Collegiate Honors Council Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana, November 6, 2013.

Panelist, "Maximizing the Honors Budget in Difficult Economic Times," Developing in Honors, National Collegiate Council Conference, Boston, Massachusetts, November 15, 2012.

Panelist, "Seeing It Through: Retention Strategies," National Collegiate Honors Council Conference, Kansas City, Missouri, October 21, 2010.

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.

As a member of both the Advocacy Committee and the Professional Development Committee, I feel we need to help our members to communicate effectively about the important role that Honors plays within their campus communities. Much of what we do involves helping professionals to learn about Honors, innovate within Honors, and then communicate to stakeholders about the value of Honors for students and the university community as a whole.

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.)

I have been in Honors for fifteen years on three different regional university campuses in Missouri, Illinois, and now in South Texas. I have served as an Honors Program Director and faculty member, an Honors administrator, and now as an Honors Dean. I have worked with faculty and departments to strengthen Honors education and to create Honors Living-Learning Communities. I have supervised Honors thesis projects. I have evaluated and been involved in the hiring process of Resident Assistants for Honors floors and residence halls. I'd like to think my greatest skills are organizational leadership as well as a passion for Honors advocacy and a desire to be involved in professional development.

I have been involved in Honors at the national and regional level. I began attending the National Collegiate Honors Council Conference in 2009. I currently co-chair the NCHC Advocacy Committee and serve on the Professional Development Committee. I also have been involved in regional Honors meetings as well, having been involved with the Honors Council of the Illinois Region (HCIR), the Great Plains Honors Council, and participate in the regular meetings of the Texas public university Honors directors and deans group. I would like nothing more than to give back to the greater Honors community.

As a representative from a Hispanic-Serving Institution, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, I feel I have an additional voice to add to the national Honors conversation on diversity and inclusion. I've already seen amazing stories as my students overcome incredible odds to become Goldwater Scholars, doctoral students in elite research programs, and have gained admission to

professional schools. With the right environment and some hard work, there is no reason that excellence cannot be inclusive. I see it every day.

I would greatly appreciate your vote for the NCHC Board of Directors.

4. Application Details

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

Advocacy : I currently co-chair the NCHC Advocacy Committee

Professional Development : I am a member of the Professional Development Committee

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.

[Zoom_Photo_Spencer.jpg](#)

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.

[Spencer_No_Support_Letter_Yet.docx](#)

5. Thank You!

New Send Email

Jun 09, 2023 12:17:42 Success: Email Sent to: nchc@unl.edu