NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF
HIGHER EDUCATION

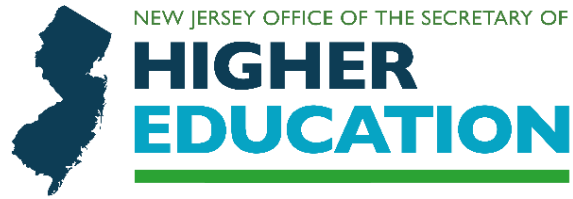|	
To:	Chief Student Affairs Officers
From:	NJ Office of the Secretary of Higher Education
Date:	August 6, 2025
Subject:	Deadline Extended: Call for Proposals for New Jersey Statewide Student Mental Health Summit

The application deadline for the Call for Proposals (CFP) for the New Jersey Statewide Student Mental Health Summit has been extended. **The priority deadline for proposals is August 15, 2025. Proposals will be reviewed on a rolling basis through September 8, 2025.**

Taking place on **October 8, 2025, at Kean University in Union, NJ**, the Summit is a student-centered, student-led convening designed to elevate student voices and promote mental health awareness across New Jersey's institutions of higher education. The event will bring together students, mental health professionals, and community organizations to discuss and share ideas that advance mental health advocacy, research, and engagement.

We invite full-time or part-time undergraduate or graduate students at accredited New Jersey institutions to submit proposals for sessions in a variety of formats. Please share this opportunity.

For more information or questions, contact jacqueline.campbell@oshe.nj.gov.

See the updated CFP attached to this broadcast.

E-MAIL: LOCATION: WEBSITE:
oshe@oshe.nj.gov   1 John Fitch Plaza Trenton, NJ 08625   www.nj.gov/highereducation
New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Education

Call for Proposals: New Jersey Statewide Student Mental Health Summit

New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Education

The priority deadline for proposals is August 15, 2025.
Proposals will be reviewed on a rolling basis through September 8, 2025.

Summit Overview

The NJ Statewide Student Mental Health Summit is a student-centered, student-led convening designed to elevate student voices and promote mental health awareness across New Jersey's institutions of higher education. The summit will bring together students, mental health professionals, and community organizations to discuss and share ideas that advance mental health advocacy, research, and engagement. We aim to empower students to lead meaningful change and develop peer networks that will help shape mental health culture on campuses and throughout the state.

We invite currently enrolled full-time or part-time undergraduate or graduate students at an accredited institution of higher education in New Jersey to submit proposals. Applicants must be enrolled at the time of submission and remain enrolled through the date of the Summit. This is an opportunity to share innovative ideas, research, and creative projects that address the mental health challenges and opportunities within higher education.

The Summit will take place on **Wednesday, October 8, 2025**, at Kean University in Union, NJ.

The priority deadline for proposals is **August 15, 2025**. Proposals will be reviewed on a rolling basis through **September 8, 2025**.

Questions can be directed to Jacqueline.Campbell@oshe.nj.gov.

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Key Themes: Advocacy, Research, and Engagement
Proposals should focus on one (or more) of the following themes:

- **Advocacy: Promoting Change and Raising Awareness:** Advocacy is about speaking up for the mental health needs of students and advocating for resources, policies, awareness campaigns, and programs that support mental health. Advocacy creates visibility for mental health issues, promoting existing and possible solutions for these challenges, and mobilizing campus communities to act.

- **Research: Understanding, Measuring, and Improving Mental Health Support:** Research involves gathering knowledge and data to better understand mental health challenges on college campuses and improve support for students. Research projects can examine mental health trends, evaluate existing programs, or explore new solutions to improve student well-being through the use of studies, surveys, focus groups, and other forms of quantitative and qualitative analysis.

- **Engagement: Creating a Collaborative and Supportive Community:** Engagement focuses on involving and empowering students, faculty, and staff to actively participate in mental health initiatives. This can take the form of collaborative, grassroots efforts to improve mental health culture on campus, as well as creative projects that foster connection and understanding. In addition to conventional presentations, we welcome proposals for art, poetry, film, social media campaigns, or other forms of storytelling that share experiences, engage audiences, and reduce stigma.

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Presentation Format Options

Individual and Collaborative Presentations

Students may submit proposals as **individual presenters**, in **partnership with other students**, or as part of a **student group or organization** (such as a campus club, advocacy group, or team). Students are also welcome to **co-present with a faculty or staff member**, especially if the project reflects a shared research project or mentorship experience. Co-presenters do not need to attend the same institution, though all presenters must attend or be affiliated with an institution of higher education in New Jersey in order to apply. If a student wishes to present alongside a faculty or staff member, please note that the student must be the lead submitter of the proposal.

Conventional Presentation Formats

Conventional conference presentations are structured sessions that allow you to share information, insights, or experiences with your audience. This format can accommodate individual student presenters and student groups as well as collaborations between students, faculty, and staff.

Conventional presentation formats are a great option for:

- Students who have conducted research (independently or with faculty or peers) and want to present their findings

- Student organizations or campus advocacy groups who want to share their work and impact
- Any student or group looking to deliver a well-organized talk, make an argument, or lead a thoughtful discussion around mental health advocacy, research, and engagement

Common presentation formats include:

- **Panel Discussions:** A group of presenters each give 10-15-minute talks on a shared topic, followed by audience Q&A
- **Q&A Fireside Chats:** A small, informal group conversation with a facilitator guiding the discussion
- **Lightning Talks or PechaKucha:** Short, fast-paced presentations (usually 5-8 minutes) that highlight a key idea or story using slides

Students are also welcome to pitch possible session formats not listed here.

Alternative Format Submissions

Alternative format submissions offer flexible, creative, and non-traditional ways to present your work. These sessions may involve interactive elements, visual displays, or multimedia projects. Like conventional formats, alternative format submissions can accommodate individual student presenters and student groups as well as collaborations between students, faculty, and staff.

Alternative formats are a great option for:

- Students who want to share their ideas through research posters, visual displays, or creative projects—rather than delivering a conventional talk onstage
- Students who want to lead a workshop, facilitate an activity, or engage participants in a shared experience
- Artists and creators who want to showcase original work that reflects on mental health advocacy, research, or engagement

Common alternative formats include:

- **Poster Presentations:** Posters or visual displays that highlight student-led advocacy, research, and engagement. These can be displayed at the venue without requiring a formal presentation.

- **Hands-On Learning Experiences:** Guided activities that teach mental health-related skills, coping strategies, or creative practices
- **Multimedia Presentations:** Original short films, digital projects, photography, art, or other forms of creative expression.

Students are also welcome to pitch possible session formats not listed here. Further information about presentation space will be shared after accepted student proposals are announced.

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How to Apply

To apply for a conventional or alternative session format, you will need to supply the following information:

- **Submission Title**
    - o Choose a title that clearly reflects the content of your session and will catch the interest of attendees.
- **Submission Abstract (a brief, 300-500-word overview of your session)**
    - o Explain the central problem, question, or issue that motivates you to create this presentation. Why is it important for audiences to hear your presentation now, in this particular place and time?
    - o Describe how your presentation connects to one or more of the Summit's key themes: Mental health advocacy, research, or engagement
    - o Outline the goals of your session and what you hope participants will take away. What will participants understand, learn, feel, or experience during your presentation?
- **Description of Format**
    - o Choose which format best describes the structure of your presentation (conventional or alternative format; panel discussion, interactive workshop, creative work, lightning talk, etc.) or describe the format you have in mind.
- **Description of Material or Technology Needs**
    - o Provide a list of any materials or technical support you will need to present your session, such as AV equipment (projector, speakers, microphones, etc.) and any art supplies, handouts, or other physical materials.

Guidance for Early-Stage Ideas

Students do not need to have a fully developed presentation or research project in order to apply. We welcome rough or emerging ideas, and we encourage students to share general interests, early concepts, questions you hope to explore, or areas where you might like support or collaboration. OSHE is committed to working with students over the summer and early fall to help develop proposals into strong, engaging sessions. If you're passionate about mental health and have a spark of an idea, we hope you will apply.

Link to Apply

All proposals must be submitted through our online application form, which is hosted in Qualtrics via the following link or QR code:

https://oshe.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8oYFKs2AbQ1mDxY

To help you prepare your answers, we recommend previewing the application before you begin. You can view a PDF of the full Qualtrics survey here. This link is a ***preview only:***

Preview the Qualtrics survey here.

Note: The Qualtrics form uses logic that changes what questions you see based on your responses. For example, if you choose a conventional session format (such as a presentation or panel), you'll be directed to a different set of questions than if you choose an alternative session format (like a creative project).

We ask that you **only submit one type of session format per application**. If you want to propose more than one session in different formats, please fill out a separate Qualtrics form for each proposal.

The priority deadline for proposals is **August 15, 2025.** Proposals will be reviewed on a rolling basis through **September 8, 2025.**