



Newsletter 19 – December 2018

In this final newsletter of 2018, the European Honors Council (EHC) has some great news for you regarding honors and talent development in higher education. There are interesting developments in new countries, as well as other news:

- The first Honors program in Norway
- Honors conference in Russia
- Meeting for Ph.D students in honors
- Short report: CoTalent mini-conference in Copenhagen, 15-16 November
- Honors International Faculty Institute at Texas Christian University
- Special issue 'good practices' Journal of the EHC to be published soon

The first Honors program in Norway

Professor Anders Malthe-Sørensen and Professor Ella Idsøe, both from the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences at the University of Oslo (Norway), report the following: 'A quite newly released Norwegian White Paper (St. meld. 16 from 2016-2017), "Culture for Quality in Higher Education" opens for developing various forms of support for talented students in higher education. Among them, a big emphasis is on Honors Programs. University of Oslo is the first to embrace this opportunity and starting fall 2019 opens 20 new bachelor positions in an interdisciplinary honors program. The program is developed as cooperation between The Faculty of Humanities and Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences and will have two lines of study: one in science (10 students) and one in humanities (10 students). The program is a three-year bachelor program consisting of a bachelor-degree (180 ECTS) with an honours addition (30 ECTS) for a total of 210 ECTS. Students receive a mentor team that helps developing an individualized study program. The program has an interdisciplinary focus – aiming to provide students with new perspectives on their own disciplines and how it interacts with other disciplines. Each cohort will have a specific theme with a thematic focus the first year, methods in the second year, and an interdisciplinary project in the third year. Particular emphasis will be placed on digital methods including programming across all disciplines.' More info (in Norwegian) here: <https://titan.uio.no/node/2981>

Honors conference in Russia

Honors is a real international movement. President of the EHC Marca Wolfensberger was invited to give a keynote on honors pedagogies through video-conference at the Honors College Conference in Krasnoyarsk (Russia) on November 30. Also, students from Hanze UAS in the Netherlands and NCHC and EHC members were invited through Skype. The conference was dedicated to discussing purposes and perspectives of establishing and developing honors programs and honors colleges in universities of Russian Federation,

defining strategies and tactics of applying international educational honors standards to practices of Russian universities. During the conference participants discussed the importance of honors program for individual development and personal enhancement of honors students. About 100 people attended the conference.

Russian Honors educators from Moscow, Tyumen, Chelyabinsk and Krasnoyarsk made their presentations at the conference. The recorded videos, as well as the program of the event is available at the conference website hc-conf.sfu-kras.ru

The proceedings of the conference will be published later this month.

Maria Tarasova, the dean of The Honors College of Siberian Federal University, Russia (SibFU) was one of the organizers. She has a program that aims at the development of students' soft skills (critical thinking, effective communication, positive resolutions of conflicts, negotiation skills, creativity, leadership, effective decision making, visual thinking etc.). Tarasova is also interested in more theoretical aspects of honors, for instance in the concept of educational enthusiasm in honors education. We hope to give more insights of her ideas on honors through the Journal of the European Honors Council.

Meeting for Ph.D. students in honors

On Tuesday 5 February 2019 Hanze UAS Groningen (Netherlands) organizes a meeting for Ph.D. students in the subjects honors and talent development in higher education. Students will have the opportunity to present questions for discussions and receive feedback. In 2017 and 2018, Hanze UAS organized similar meetings for students in the Netherlands. This time the meeting is open for international participants. If you are interested in joining, please send an e-mail to Joke Venema, j.m.venema@pl.hanze.nl

Short report: CoTalent mini-conference in Copenhagen, 15-16 November

What are your own views towards talent as a teacher? And how do you spot talents in your students? A group of talent educators from around Europe came together at University College Copenhagen (Denmark) on 15-16 November to discuss these and other questions relating to talent development in higher education. The two-day working event, called the MeTalent YouTalent mini-conference, was the first presentation to the outside world of the EU-funded project Working in Europe to Connect Talent Development in Higher Education (CoTalent). During the two days, focus was on two instruments for teachers developed in the CoTalent project:

1. an instrument to self-evaluate views towards talent development (MeTalent Mirror)
2. an instrument to spot talented students (YouTalent Spotter)

Both instruments consist of different tools. Participants used these tools in practical working sessions and enjoyed inspiring talks by three keynote speakers. A full report on the event and more information on the project can be found at www.cotalentwizard.eu

Honors International Faculty Institute at Texas Christian University

The 4th Annual Honors International Faculty Institute (HIFI) will take place from June 3 - June 5, 2019 at Texas Christian University, USA. Grounded in honors pedagogy research, this intensive workshop is aimed at university or college professors, instructors, lecturers, and researchers who aspire to teach academically talented (honors) college students. The institute will equip its participants with knowledge, skills, and resources necessary to design and teach effective honors courses. The EHC sponsors this event and EHC president Marca

Wolfensberger is one of the facilitators. Registration opens on January 1st and is limited to 25 participants. A flyer and more info can be found here:

<https://honors.tcu.edu/events/4th-annual-honors-international-faculty-institute-hifi/>

Special issue 'good practices' Journal of the EHC to be published soon

The Editorial Board of the Journal of the European Honors Council is working hard to finalise its next issue, focused on good practices in honors education. We expect publication in the coming weeks. Meanwhile, enjoy the journal's three issues so far, including special issues on honors communities and honors futures. Your contributions to the Journal are very welcome. Read the Journal and submit at www.jehc.eu

More info?

Please feel free to send this newsletter around to colleagues and friends, and invite them to also [join](#) the EHC. See www.honorscouncil.eu

Find the newsletter archive [here](#).

For membership questions: membership@honorscouncil.eu (Marleen Eyckmans)

All other questions: info@honorscouncil.eu (Maarten Hogenstijn - Secretary)

The next issue of this newsletter is scheduled for early February, 2019. If you have input for the next newsletter, please [send](#) it in by February 1st.

This newsletter was sent to you because you registered as a member of the European Honors Council. If you no longer want to receive these e-mails, please send a message to membership@honorscouncil.eu