



POMS HOCM Mini Conference Program 2026

May 7th, 2026 Grand Sierra Resort

2500 E 2nd St, Reno, NV 89595

“Humanitarian Operations for Populations at Risk”

8:30 AM	5:00 PM	Mini-conference check-in
12:00 PM	1:00 PM	Lunch (in the conference venue; room TBA)
1:15 PM	1:30 PM	Opening Remarks Feyza G. Sahinyazan, Diana Ramirez-Rios, VPs of Meetings, HOCM College
1:30 PM	2:30 PM	Session 1: Serving Populations at Risk <i>This session examines how agencies plan, coordinate, and execute their operations when serving vulnerable populations</i> Moderator: Feyza G. Sahinyazan Panelists: Ayanna McGee, Director of System Implementation, Sacramento Steps Forward Justin Milami, Branch Chief Disaster Logistics, California Office of Emergency Services Kim Eason, Community Disaster Program Manager, American Red Cross of Nevada
2:30 PM	3:00 PM	Break
3:00 PM	4:00 PM	Session 2: Emergency Response within Tribal Communities <i>This session explores how emergency management operates within tribal jurisdictions and what this means for equitable response operations.</i> Moderator: Diana Ramirez-Rios Panelists: Helen Lopez, Deputy Director of Tribal Affairs, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Serrell Smokey, Chairman, Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California Ken Quiner, Manager of Emergency Preparedness, Washoe Tribe of Nevada & California Lisa Christensen, Program Manager, Washoe Tribe Preparedness Resource Department
4:00 PM	4:15 PM	Break
4:15 PM	4:30 PM	HOCM Student Video Competition Finalists
4:30 PM	5:30 PM	Interactive session: Roundtable with Practitioners Moderators: Diana Ramirez-Rios and Feyza G. Sahinyazan
5:30 PM	5:45 PM	Closing Remarks Johanna Amaya, President, HOCM College Feyza G. Sahinyazan, Diana Ramirez-Rios, VPs of Meetings, HOCM College
6:00 PM		Reception

We look forward to seeing you in Reno!

If you have any questions, please email HOCM President Johanna Amaya (amayaj@psu.edu) or VPs of Meetings Diana Ramirez-Rios (dgramire@buffalo.edu) or Feyza G. Sahinyazan (feyza_sahinyazan@sfu.ca).