

MEHERUN LAIJU, TOUGALOO COLLEGE

DHS Coastal Resilience Center

Education Project Work Plan

1/1/2016 – 6/30/2020

1. Project Title: Institutionalization, Expansion, and Enhancement of Interdisciplinary Minor: Disaster and Coastal Studies

2. Principal Investigator:

Meherun Laiju, Ph. D. Associate Professor and Chair of Sociology Department; Tougaloo College

3. Other Education Participants/Partners: Interdisciplinary collaboration within Tougaloo College (Sociology, Psychology, Physics Departments faculty members, and Continuing Education Division of Tougaloo College)

4. Short Project Description:

The aims of this project are to improve education and workforce development in homeland security operations through institutionalization, expansion, and enhancement of the Interdisciplinary Minor in Disaster and Coastal Studies (DCS) and create a certificate program. The education program's focus is to train undergraduate students in interdisciplinary skills necessary to mitigate against natural and man-made coastal hazard-related impacts through training research and coursework. The Certificate program will facilitate the education of future community leaders, first responders, and citizens in planning and implementing disaster strategies which help to build a more effective path to societal resilience and security.

5. Abstract:

This project will expand/enhance the Interdisciplinary Minor: Disaster and Coastal Studies implemented during the Coastal Hazards Center of Excellence-Education (2008-2015). Interdisciplinary collaboration will be enhanced to embrace the Psychology and Physics Departments by adding GIS based courses to the Minor. Undergraduate research in the hazard mitigation area will be expanded to include a community preparedness focus to enhance community resilience. A certificate program will offer continuing education opportunities for first responders, community leaders and interested citizens in preparing resilient communities.