

SMITH, UNC-CH
DHS Coastal Resilience Center
Education Project Work Plan

1. **Project Title:** Expanding Coastal Resilience Education at UNC
2. **Principal Investigators:**
 - Gavin Smith, Research Professor, Department of City and Regional Planning; Rick Luettich, Professor, Department of Marine Sciences, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
3. **Other Education Participants/Partners:** UNC Departments of Marine Sciences, City and Regional Planning, Geological Sciences, Law School, Curriculum for the Environment and Ecology, Center for Public Service
4. **Short Project Description.**

UNC will significantly expand its capabilities in Coastal Resilience developing a graduate certificate program in Natural Hazards Resilience and by hiring a tenure track faculty member (trained in physical science and/or engineering) in the area of Coastal Natural Hazards and Climate Science. The Certificate program, which will start in the Fall of 2015, focuses on the nexus between the physical science underlying natural hazards phenomena and the policies, programs, and plans needed to help societies manage their effects and increase resilience. The faculty position will initially be 2/3 funded by UNC and 1/3 by the CRC. At the end of the CRC's fifth year, the faculty position will become fully funded by UNC to provide a long-term programmatic contribution to the Homeland Security enterprise.

5. **Abstract.**

The 10-hour credit Natural Hazards Resilience certificate program will focus on the nexus between the threats and impacts of natural hazards and disasters on human settlements, including those exacerbated by climate change, and how individuals, organizations, communities, and larger systems of governance prepare for, respond to, mitigate against, recover from, and adapt to these events. Emphasis is placed on the concept of disaster resilience, or "the ability to prepare and plan for, absorb, recover from, and more successfully adapt to adverse events" (National Research Council 2012). The curriculum will provide students with an academic and practice-based exposure to the science underlying our understanding of natural hazards phenomena and a critical analysis of the policies, programs, and plans in place that are intended to help societies manage the effects of natural hazards and disasters, to include a discussion of those actions that effect disaster resilience. The certificate program is designed to serve enrolled graduate students and is not available to practicing professionals located outside the university. Based on the high demand among employers for recent graduates who have studied with faculty associated with the former Coastal Hazards Center, we believe the certificate program will provide a significant enhancement to participating students' graduate education and competitiveness in the job market.

