

LAIJU, TOUGALOO
DHS Coastal Resilience Center
Education Project:
Annual Project Performance Report

Covers reporting period January 1, 2016 – June 30, 2016

1. **Project Title:** Institutionalization, Expansion, and Enhancement of Interdisciplinary Minor:
Disaster and Coastal Studies
2. **Principal Investigator / Institution:** 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 and Political Science Departments faculty members, of Tougaloo College)
4. **Short Project Description:** Through this project we will remodel the curriculum at Tougaloo College, making it more relevant to education and workforce development in homeland security operations. We plan to achieve this through institutionalization, expansion, and enhancement of the Interdisciplinary Minor in Disaster and Coastal Studies (DCS). Our goals are two-fold (i) train undergraduate students in interdisciplinary skills necessary to mitigate natural and man-made coastal hazards through research, training and coursework and (ii) create a certificate program to educate and prepare future community leaders, first responders, and citizens in planning and implementing disaster strategies to build an effective path towards societal resilience and safety.
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.

6. **End users:** This is an interdisciplinary project within the college. Faculty members from Physics, Sociology Psychology, and Political Science Departments will be collaboratively involved in student training (disaster related research) course modification or development and creating a certificate program for the community at large.

Certification Program: A certification program will be designed for businesses, faith-based & community organizations, schools & academia, nonprofit support groups, and citizens. During the Spring 2016 academic session an advisory committee was put together. The committee members are assisting in the designing the program. The committee members met on March 31st and May 16th and started the preliminary work. The participants and their roles are included in the following table:

End User	Agency/Employer	Project Role
Dr. Nicole Cathy	Political Science; TC	Coordinator
Dr. George Humphrey, CFM	Director (grants)MEMA	DCS Instructor, Place Intern
Mr. John Brown	Regional Manager; Red Cross	Serve on panel
Ms. Jana Henderson	Mitigation Office Director, MEMA	Serve on panel
Marsha Mannuel	Grant Director, MS office of Homeland Security	Serve on panel, Intern placement
Colonel Donnell Berry	MS State Trooper	Serve on panel
Mr. Ricky Moore	Director, Hinds County Emergency Management	Serve on Panel
Mr. Warren D. Miller	President, Mississippi Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD)	Serve on Panel
Mr. Anderson	Pastor, United Methodist Church	Serve on Panel
Dr. Shaila Khan	Psychology Department, TC	Mentor student research
Dr. Santanu Banerjee	Physics Department, TC	Mentor student research

7. **Explanation of Changes:** The delivery method has been changed for the certificate program. Initially the certificate program was planned to be part of the Tougaloo College Continuing Education Program. In January of 2016 the administration decided to phase out the Continuing Education Department. I have discussed the situation with the CRC Education Director and informed him of the alternative plan.
8. **Unanticipated Problems:** The closing of the Continuing Education Program put us slightly behind schedule to develop and launch the non-credit bearing certificate program. The program was regrouped by March and it was decided that the certificate program will be offered by the Sociology Department in collaboration with the

Political Science Department. Dr. Nicole Cathy, assistant professor in the Political Science Department, is assigned as a coordinator. We have contacted local emergency management agencies and set up an advisory board to assist us in designing the certificate program.

9. **Project Outcomes:** Tougaloo College is a private Historically Black College which offers undergraduate degrees. The majority of the student body is comprised of first-generation college students. The main mission of the College is to prepare students for graduate school. The current project addresses the acute underrepresentation of minorities in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics areas (STEM). The project plans to diversify the future DHS and S&T workforce by training underrepresented minorities, mirroring some of the more vulnerable populations impacted by disaster scenarios. Through internship placement, students have an exposure to emergency management organizations. Students pursuing the minor have the opportunity to be trained in interdisciplinary fields across academic divisions (Natural & Social Science, so that other institutions may recruit graduate students who have a background in disaster related curricula.

10. **Education Activity and Milestone Progress:**

Education Activities and Milestones: Progress to Date

Reporting Period 1/1/2016 – 6/30/2016			
Education Activity	Proposed Completion Date	% Complete	Explanation of why activity / milestone was not reached, and when completion is expected
Offer 3 courses for DCS minor	January 2016	100%	
Select students for research and training (GIS & Survey)	January 2016	100%	
Form Advisory Committee for certificate program	February 2016	100%	
Intern placement to end user setting	February 2016	100%	
Create a project charter and Gaant chart of GIS subproject for first 3 years	February 2016	30%	Delayed due to shortened period in the starting year.
Students complete literature review to help frame the questionnaires	March 2016	<u>70%</u>	First draft has been submitted on May 13 th
Design questionnaires to evaluate: effectiveness of risk awareness program	April 2016	0%	Students are working during summer, expected draft on August

DCS Research Symposium	April 2016	100%	
Education Milestone			
Inter and DCS minor students present at DCS Research Symposium	April 2016	100%	
Invite CRC partners & end-user agency personnel as guest speaker and students from partnering institute to present at DCS Symposium	April 2016	100%	
Expecting 1-2 graduate with DCS minor. Encourage graduates to attend graduate program at CRC Institution and potentially seek employment at hosting agencies	May 2016	100%	
Application of GIS to a project	June 2016	60%	In progress
Project charter and Gantt chart milestone completion for the advisory committee	June 2016	40%	In progress
DCS Course evaluation for the certificate program	June 2016	10%	In progress
Send 1-2 students to CRC partner institution for summer internship	June 2016	100%	

11. Transition Activity and Milestone Progress:

Transition Activities and Milestones: Progress to Date

Reporting Period 1/1/2016 – 6/30/2016			
Transition Activity	Proposed Completion Date	% Complete	Explanation of why activity / milestone was not reached, and when completion is expected
Advertise and promote the Certificate Program/Continuing Education Program	June 2016	0%	Delay due to phase out of the Continuing Education Program and developing an alternative administrative structure.
Recruit end-user organizations to participate in Certificate Program	June 2016	70%	Program planning in progress and working currently with five end user organizations.

Transition Milestone			
Approved end-user transition plan	February 2016	100%	
Develop end-user agreements to participate in Certificate Program	June 2016	100%	
DCS Students engaged in internships at end-user organizations	June 2016	100%	

12. Interactions with research projects: A collaborative working partnership has been developed with the University of Delaware’s Disaster Research Center. Under the CRC’s SUMREX Program, Taralyn Rowell and Irenia Ball were selected to participate in a summer internship (June 6th to August 1st) at the Center. Students will work under the guidance of Dr. Joseph Trainor. Taralyn Rowell, a Psychology major, graduated with a Disaster Coastal Studies (DCS) minor in May, and is interested in pursuing a graduate program related to Disaster Management. The summer internship experience is expected to solidify her field of study. Irenia Ball is a rising senior Sociology major with the DCS minor. Last year Irenia worked as an intern at the Mississippi Department of Homeland Security and plans to continue this internship in the fall. Irenia’s SUMREX internship may be used for her senior paper requirement.

13. Publications: Laiju, M. (20016) *A Global Issue: Natural Disaster and Child trafficking*, proposal to write a paper was funded by Andrew W. Melon Foundation, the completion and submission date is May 2017.

14. CRC Performance Metrics:

CRC Performance Metrics			
Metric	Research	Education	Center
Courses/certificates developed, taught, and/or modified		See Table	
Enrollments in Center-supported courses/certificates			
HS-related internships (number)		7	
Undergraduates provided tuition/fee support (number)			
Undergraduate students provided stipends (number)		15	
Graduate students provided tuition/fee support (number)		NA	
Graduate students provided stipends (number)		NA	
Undergraduates who received HS-related degrees		3	
Graduate students who received HS-related degrees		NA	
Certificates awarded (number)		NA	
Graduates who obtained HS-related employment			
SUMREX program students hosted (number)			
Lectures/presentations/seminars at Center partners		1	
DHS MSI Summer Research Teams hosted (number)		0	
Journal articles submitted (number)		0	
Journal articles published (number)		0	
Conference presentations made (number)		1	
Other presentations, interviews, etc. (number)		10	
Patent applications filed (number)			
Patents awarded (number)			
Trademarks/copyrights filed (number)		0	
Requests for assistance/advice from DHS agencies		2	
Requests for assistance/advice from other Federal		5	
Total milestones for reporting period (number)		7	
Accomplished fully (number)		4	
Accomplished partially (number)		3	
Not accomplished (number)		-	
Product/s delivered to end-user/s (description and	See Table		
External funding received	See Table		
Leveraged support			
Articles on Center-related work published on website			
Coverage in media, blogs (number)			
Social media followers (number)			
Posts to social media accounts (number)			
Events hosted (number)			
Website hits (number)			

Table for Documenting CRC Education Project Courses and Enrollments

Courses Developed and Taught by Tougaloo College under Project Title						
Course		Developed (D), Revised (R), and/or Taught				
Number	Title	1	2	3	4	5
DCS 301	Political & Legal Issues in Disaster Preparedness	T				
	Offering: Elective (E), Concentration (C), Minor (M)	C				
	Enrollment	14				
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DCS 320	Emergency Preparedness Response & Planning.	T				
	Offering: Elective (E), Concentration (C), Minor (M)	C				
	Enrollment	16				
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DCS 400	Internship	T				
	Offering: Elective (E), Concentration (C), Minor (M)	C				
	Enrollment	7				
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DCS 211	Public Health Issues in Disaster Preparedness	T				
	Offering: Elective (E), Concentration (C), Minor (M)	C				
	Enrollment	1				

Table for Documenting External Funding and Leveraged Support

External Funding			
Title	PI	Total Amount	Source
<i>A Global Issue: Natural Disaster and Child trafficking</i>	Meherun Laiju	\$8,000	W. Andrew Melon Foundation
<i>Using Geographical Information System (GIS) to Map Modern Day Slavery</i>	Santanu Banerjee	\$4,000	W. Andrew Melon Foundation
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Leveraged Support			
Description		Estimated Annual	
Class room space and computer lab for GIS Training		\$15,000	
Portion of university indirect returned to project		\$15,000	
25% release time for PI		\$11,000	