

LAIJU - TC
DHS Coastal Resilience Center
Year 6 Education Project Workplan
[July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021]

1. **Title.** Expanding and Strengthening the Institutionalized Multidisciplinary Certificate: Disaster and Coastal Studies(DCS)
2. **Principal Investigator.** Meherun Laiju, Ph.D.; TougalooCollege
3. **Other Participants/Partners.** Internalcollaborationwith Psychology, Sociology, Physics and Education Departmentsand External Collaboration with local Emergency Management Agencies
4. **Short Description.** The goal of year six is to popularize and strengthen the institutionalized Multidisciplinary certificate: Disaster Coastal Studies. To enable Homeland Security related career and higher education pathways, host a continuing education workshop for professionals that includes psychological and emotional preparedness techniques, sponsor interactive forums in high risk communities in collaboration with the local Emergency Management Agency and work with other Tougaloo College departments to include more elective courses in the certificate program.
5. **Abstract.** The Interdisciplinary Minor: Disaster and Coastal Studies (2008-2015) implementation was an effort to address the Department of Homeland Security’s Post–Katrina Emergency Reform Act of 2006. The Minor has subsequently been modified into a Multidisciplinary Certificate. Disaster Coastal Studies (DCS) Certificate is Tougaloo College’s first Certificate program and became institutionalized as a part of its curriculum from Fall 2018. The twelve credit hour DCS certification includes modified core courses and elective courses from Psychology, Sociology, Mass-Communication, Political Science, and the Natural Sciences. The DCS certificate provides a comprehensive curriculum which incorporates a multidisciplinary perspective in understanding the nature of disasters and the organizational issues inherent in the planning, preparedness, management, and mitigation of disaster events. The program also provides training in essential interdisciplinary technical skills such as Geographical Information Systems (GIS), and provides field experiences for students through internships with end users. The DCS certificate addresses the demand of the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) along with the local and state government needs for trained professionals in the area of disaster management. The DCS certificate program is designed to be inclusive of all disaster related stakeholders. In particular, the DCS program addresses an important threat to vulnerable population and provides qualified training and career pathway to the demography of students more representative of such susceptible populations, (who are underrepresented in disaster management fields).

The goal of the sixth year supplement is the strengthening and expansion of the institutionalized DCS certificate program. To achieve this year six objective the project will include four activities (a) Develop HSE related career and graduate school pathway at Tougaloo College by assigning a coordinator with clearly delineated aim to increase the pipeline of HSE professionals from Tougaloo College.

(b) The Project will organize a disaster preparedness forum in high- risk communities in collaboration with local emergency management personnel, which will help in disaster preparedness and create more resilient communities. (c) Sponsor and host a workshop for professionals working in fields which deal with natural disasters. This professional development opportunity will provide CEU credits to demonstrate academic progress for practicing participants in the disaster management field. (d) Work with the Tougaloo College Division of Education to develop/modify graduate and undergraduate courses of that division, so that students have more elective course options within the DCS Certificate.

This sixth year, four pronged enhancement approach to the TougalooDCS program is expected to strengthen the already institutionalized program and can be used as a model to emulate in disaster management programs at other organizations.