

Higher Education Program News July 28, 2017

Higher Education Program Updates

Message from Wendy Walsh, Higher Education Program Manager

This week, I will yield my message to Dr. Alex Greer from Oklahoma State University. He recently took a group of students to South Africa, and I thought you might be interested in learning about their experience.

From July 1st through July 8th, the Fire Protection and Safety Engineering Technology Program (FPST) and the Fire and Emergency Management Administration Program (FEMP) of Oklahoma State University spent part of their summer in South Africa to gain a better understanding of the fire risk in informal settlements. This was the first shared project between these two leading fire protection programs, laying the groundwork for future collaborative work. The trip provided students from the two disciplines an opportunity to work jointly to address fire risk in informal settlements.



Inside an informal settlement outside Stellenbosch, South Africa

Approximately one billion people live in informal settlements worldwide, and over two million people live in informal settlements in South Africa. These homes are often built close together, without room for roads or sewage systems and limited access to electricity and water. To effectively mitigate fire risk, fire protection engineers must consider the community from a holistic perspective, understanding how all of the elements intersect and collectively create the fire risk. The experience of working in the informal settlements – meeting and visiting with the residents and aid workers – puts all of the elements into perspective, bringing to light how these factors that contribute to fire and disaster risk are created and perpetuated. Through this experience, FPST students were exposed to the role of sociocultural and economic factors that contribute to community risk.

The university collaborated with Stellenbosch University and the Western Cape Government Disaster Management to focus on ways to improve fire safety in a number of informal settlements in the Stellenbosch and Cape Town areas. This unique experience provided students with a hands-on opportunity to see the impact of fire prevention in a high fire risk, multi-hazard environment. It also gave the students a chance to practice their research skills, interviewing residents about fire safety and their experience with smoke alarms. This study abroad provided a unique experience that prepares the students to work in other cultures and understand fire risks that are drastically different from those commonly found in the United States. This is an incredibly critical experience for these students, given that both FPST and FEMP graduates often work in



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international settings, including in the Middle East, Asia, and Europe. To learn more about this effort, please feel free to contact [Dr. Alex Greer](#).

The Higher Education Program hosts a webinar each month. For a topic or idea, contact [Wendy Walsh](#).

Would you like to be eligible for future Hi Ed projects, such as focus groups, student internship opportunities, and course revisions? If interested, visit our [link](#) for instructions, or contact [Barbara](#).

[College List](#) - The EMI Higher Education Program keeps a [list](#) of colleges and universities that offer emergency management, homeland security, and related programs. EMI staff do not provide college recommendations or discuss the relative merits of the colleges and universities listed. Send information updates.

We have a number of folders available from the 2017 19th Annual Emergency Management Hi Ed Symposium. If you would like one or more folders, please [email](#) your name and mailing address and the number of folders you would like to have sent.

The 20th Annual Emergency Management Higher Education Symposium will be held June 4-7, 2018, at FEMA's Emergency Management Institute at the National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg, MD.

The Next EM Higher Education Community Conference Call is Thursday, August 17, from 2:00-3:00 PM EDT. Please join us. Learn from the emergency management academic community what is new and exciting in their world. Find out about ongoing projects and discuss higher education community needs that we can address. Let Wendy Walsh know if you have topics you would like to discuss. **800-320-4330, PIN: 376368.**

Employment

Vacancy announcements posted for other Emergency Management/Homeland Security Positions:

- Emergency Management Specialist, GS 12, CLOSE 8/1/2017, [HHS-CDC-D5-17-1989408](#), Atlanta, GA
- Emergency Management Specialist, GS 9, CLOSE 7/31/2017, [NEGE178805761972887](#), Newington, NH
- Emergency Management Specialist (Senior Watch and Warning Manager), GS 13, CLOSE 8/3/2017, [OS-6050-17-KY-129\(MP\)](#), Washington, DC
- Emergency Management Specialist, GS 13, CLOSE 7/31/2017, [MARAD.HQ-2017-0070](#), Washington, DC

Higher Education Vacancies:

- [Bunker Hill Community College](#) – Adjunct Faculty, Criminal Justice and Public Safety





- Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University – Assistant/Associate Professor of Homeland Security
- Frederick Community College – Adjunct Faculty, Emergency Management
- Piedmont Virginia Community College – Part-time Faculty, Cyber/Homeland Security
- St. Joseph’s University – Adjunct Professor, Graduate Criminal Justice Program

Resources

The resources below were compiled through a variety of sources, and they are included here as, perhaps, what could be interesting and relevant resources for research or classroom use. The links are provided as a convenience and for informational purposes only; they do not constitute any endorsement or approval by FEMA or the Higher Education Program.

Harris County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management public information officer Francisco Sanchez has been selected to serve on a body to advise federal officials on how best to respond to emergencies

Virginia, Wyoming, Arkansas, Kentucky, Iowa, and New Jersey are the first States to join FirstNet. FirstNet is an independent authority within the U.S. Department of Commerce. Authorized by Congress in 2012, its mission is to develop, build, and operate the nationwide, broadband network that equips first responders to save lives and protect U.S. communities. To learn more go to <https://www.firstnet.gov/>

Federal Disaster Assistance Response and Recovery Programs: Brief Summaries

Trends in the Timing and Size of DHS Appropriations: In Brief

Trump’s Leader for FEMA Wins Praise, but Proposed Budget Cuts Don’t

Schooling the Next Generation of Professionals

Today’s Emergency Manager: Versatile Enough for Any Industry

Help Wanted: Next Generation of Emergency Managers

Calendar

2017 National Geospatial Preparedness Summit, August 7-9th, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa. For more [information and registration](#).

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Download the FEMA App to receive weather alerts from the NWS for up to five different locations anywhere in the U.S.

Sign up via our free e-mail subscription service to receive notifications and information updates

“FEMA’s mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.”

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