

Second SURA Coastal Resilience Workshop on October 27, 2015

Challenge Questions & Responses

Challenge 1: Roles of Universities in Resilience Planning and Emergency Response/Preparation

- Facilitate information sharing and the development of a knowledge base that helps a community to be sustainable and to overcome adversity.
- Provide project assistance for governmental work that is outside of normal operations.
- Provide technical review of contingency and disaster plans and mitigation strategies.
- Transition and provide technical assistance to apply latest software/hardware solutions.
- Provide extension/outreach to connect university resources and expertise with local communities and user groups.
- Develop service learning opportunities for students to collect data to monitor long-term changes in the ecosystem footprint, health, damage, population change, etc. Design a capstone / project-based course in coastal resilience.
- Familiarize all students with Geographic Information Systems and spatial analysis.
- Develop the workforce for jobs related to environmental, engineering, and community resilience.
- Implement transitional work programs (e.g., internships to jobs) where when not working, participants are involved in degree or certification programs of instruction.
- Provide subject matter experts for cost effective planning and a pool of volunteers.
- Blend university technology resources with agency capabilities.
- Support the transition of technology to operations.
- Develop post graduate training for professionals to include certifications.
- Test the feasibility of coastal resilience technologies.
- Promote collaboration and the communication of results from ongoing research.
- Develop cloud analytics that merge disparate data for decision making purposes.
- Mobilize emergency voluntary support
- Conduct research and provide education on disasters and policy
- Perform research and development activities and share critical tools, technologies, training, and expertise.
- Establish a Science Requirements Advisory Committee for coastal resilience.
- Continue the SURA Coastal Resilience Workshop Series.
- Publish a monograph on coastal resilience.

Summary - Universities can play a vital role in many aspects of coastal planning, but the interaction has to be done at a local level by listening to what each community values and what their planners need that the universities can provide. It is not effective for universities to come into local communities and tell them what they are doing wrong/need to do/how their data will

make their job easier. Local planners answer to the local politics. Universities need to respect the needs of each local group, which will differ depending on the economics/politics of that community.