

Higher Education Resources Consortium

In attendance:

1. Melissa Berry, South Carolina Emergency Management
2. Jamie Caplan, STARR
3. Andrea Chatman, Pacific Disaster Center
4. Silvana Croope, DelDOT
5. Thomas LeBlanc, Texas Department of Public Safety
6. Kevin Mickey, The Polis Center
7. Ranko Pudar, Pudar Consulting
8. Margaret Walton, STARR

Discussion:

This call focused on an open discussion regarding how to move the HERC forward in a way that would strengthen the HUGs and meet the needs of the Higher Education community.

University members have yet to play a big role in the HERC and this is probably due to the fact that we have yet to give them something to engage in.

The HERC Concept paper will be completed.

The HERC Strategic Plan does exist.

Now implementing these and other things are what is needed to make the HERC successful.

Melissa explained that she uses the universities in her area a tremendous amount because they provide a unique perspective and capability.

The HERC can certainly become a space for universities to share best practices.

Margaret mentioned how Atkins is working with several large institutions in South Carolina to complete their mitigation plans.

Andrea described how in Hawaii the University of Hawaii has really run with Hazus. Private companies in Hawaii assist the counties and state in terms of Hazus and planning.

The conversation turned to the best ways and places to meet students interested in hazus. The APA Conference, the AAG Conference and the Natural Hazards Conference are very student heavy. In addition there are several graduate school programs that have terrific hazard specific laboratories and these are good places for the HERC to connect.

Several schools mentioned:

- USC, Susan Cutter

- Colorado
- Texas A&M
- Norm Levine and CFC

There are other schools as well.

Kevin recommended that the user community generate a list of research questions and make them available to key faculty at these universities. He suggested we use two incentives for the graduate students, one access to the developers and two, a chance to participate in the Annual Hazus Conference.

Silvana recommended that we add this strategy to the concept paper.

Action Items:

1. Jamie will generate a list of the key GIS Labs in the country that the HERC can network with. The HERC members will assist by contributing information.
2. Jamie will talk with Beth Howser and Eric Berman regarding beginning to conduct outreach for key research questions.
3. Jamie will also facilitate the continued work on the concept paper.