

Emergency Management in the Heart of Florida: Meeting the Needs of the University of Central Florida Students, Staff and Faculty

On July 10th, 2009, the Center for Public and Nonprofit Management (CPNM) was awarded the Emergency Management for Higher Education (EMHE) grant by the U.S. Department of Education. EMHE grants support higher education institutions in developing, reviewing, improving, and fully integrating campus-based all-hazards emergency management planning within the framework of the four phases of emergency management: prevention-mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. The CPNM, in partnership with the Environmental Health and Safety Office, will use the \$496,758 grant to revise and implement the University of Central Florida's comprehensive emergency management plan for preventing campus violence, including assessing and addressing the mental health needs of students, and for responding to threats and incidents of violence or natural disaster in a manner that ensures the safety of the campus community.

The grant project will also provide training and workshop opportunities for faculty, staff and students, allowing them to gain a further understanding of UCF's emergency management plan. Additionally, **the Department of Education will measure the success of the grant project by the number of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Incident Management Systems (NIMS) courses completed by UCF personnel during the grant period compared to the number completed beforehand.** All UCF faculty, staff and students are encouraged to take the courses. A special program area is being developed in Webcourses@UCF. More information regarding training opportunities is available at <http://emergency.ucf.edu/training.html>.

Leaders from the Central Florida public, nonprofit and private sectors have been invited to serve on the project's advisory council. The advisory council will provide leadership and guidance to ensure the success of the project throughout the course of the 18-month grant award period (September 2009 – February 2011). Project partnership agreements are already in place between UCF President Hitt, Orange County Mayor Richard Crotty, and Preston Cook, Executive Director of the Orange County Office of Emergency Management.

The grant project is being directed by Dr. Naim Kapucu, Associate Professor in the Department of Public Administration, and managed by Jeff Morgan, Emergency Management Coordinator for UCF. The project will also be assisted by Ms. Patti MacKown, Assistant Vice President of Student Enrollment and Services, who will help boost student awareness of the emergency management plan. Additionally, the grant project includes a service learning opportunity for UCF students including three full time graduate assistants and an undergraduate intern.



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Pictured: The UCF EMHE Grant Team (L to R) Jennifer Fleishman, Davion Walker, Jeff Morgan, Tom Amesbury, Dr. Naim Kapucu, Samantha Nolan, Maria-Elena Augustin, Tauheedah Muhammad, and Patti MacKown