Florida State University  
DISASTERS & COMMUNITY RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

PURPOSE: The FSU Office of Undergraduate Research, with funding from the Emergency Management & Homeland Security program at FSU, is excited to announce a new award for FSU students. The Disasters and Community Research Fellowship (DCRF) offers funding to graduate and undergraduate students to engage in research or creative endeavors addressing risks and disasters facing communities, in a domestic or international setting.

The DCRF program was created to empower students to use research or creative endeavors to shed light on disaster challenges facing communities. The program also serves to create research relationships between FSU students and communities. The outcome of the DCRF is a research presentation that specifically explores unique aspects of disasters and communities.

AWARD DESCRIPTION: Students may apply as individuals or groups. Individual applicants will receive up to a $3,000 stipend and groups will receive up to a $5,000 stipend to carry out their proposed research for eight to twelve weeks under the direction of a supervising professor. Funds may be used for living expenses, materials, and/or travel.

DCRF students should work, under the direction of a faculty mentor, with a community-based organization either in the U.S. or internationally. Project activities and research should occur in the context of a community setting such as a community-based organization, human service organization, faith-based organization, or a related non-profit organization. Ideally the work and research results will be of benefit to the partnering community organization, or draw attention to a unique aspect of disasters.

Many community-based research projects take the form of a needs assessment, program evaluation, data analysis, or documentary research and can employ a
variety of research methods. Research or creative endeavors may also lead to academic publication with the supervising professor and/or directed individual study (DIS) credit for the student during or immediately after the fellowship summer.

Examples of this type of research done by students:

- Potential Economic, Social, and Health Impact of Dengue Fever in Florida
- Assessment of USAID and Other Initiatives in Tribal Pakistan
- Gerontology and Disaster Behavior; How Experience Influences Behavior
- Urban Gardens and Their Influence on Community Perceptions of Safety
- Lost Histories; Rebuilding Family Documents After a Flood
- Native American Land Agreements and Disaster Assistance Qualifications
- Pandemics and Personal Readiness; Can Communities Survive?
- Mayan Use of Found Items in Construction; What They Can Teach Us about
- Rebuilding After a Storm
- Native Americans and Oral Traditions About Disasters
- Female Genital Mutilation in America; The Secret Public Health Emergency

**ELIGIBILITY:** All graduate and undergraduate students are eligible to apply (with a supervising professor) provided that they:

- Are enrolled at FSU at the time of application
- Will have completed at least 12 credit hours at FSU before initiating the research or creative activity
- Will return to FSU to present their results in the fall following the summer fellowship period

**TIMELINE:** Application Deadline: **February 11th, 2013**; Awards Announced: by **March 15, 2013.**

**SELECTION CRITERIA:** Selection criteria include the student’s academic record and achievement, initiative, expression of academic and career interests, the project’s feasibility and intellectual merit, and the possible benefits of the project to the community in question.

**REPORTING:** Recipients will be required to submit progress reports during the summer and to present their work. Recipients must also provide their research findings to the community--based organization in the format the organization desires (e.g., an oral presentation, a summary report).

**APPLICATION CHECKLIST AND PROCEDURES:** To apply, please complete the online application found at http://our.fsu.edu/awards.html by **February 11th, 2013.**

For more info; our.fsu.edu or email joshea@fsu.edu Applications due **February 11th, 2013**
The DCRF application has three components (use the template available for download at the award login page):

1) A project proposal which must include the following in ~1,000 words for individual proposals, ~2,500 for group proposals;
   - The purpose and concept of this research project
     - What is the problem being investigated
     - What is your timeline for this project
     - If this is a group project, what is the division of labor
   - What is your research question
     - Where, (geographically), would you be conducting this research?
     - What are the variables or attributes you are looking at?
     - What is your hypothesis with regard to your research question or the relationship of your variables?
   - Why the applicant or group wants to examine this issue
     - What relationship does this have to your existing school work?
     - How did you choose your supervising professor?
   - What results/information this projects expects to find
     - Is this a need found in the community?
     - Did your sponsoring organization help you identify this need?
   - Why this is an important or unique area of research or study?
     - How did you become interested in this topic?
     - How are you prepared to learn about this topic?
     - How will you encourage a long-term, mutually beneficial partnership with the community?
   - How will you measure the success?
     - What are potential outcomes and their meanings?
     - How will you present your results?
     - For what kind of sustainable work does this project lay the groundwork?

2) A letter of recommendation from a supervising professor (groups will have the same letter from the project’s supervising professor). The letter from your supervising professor should describe how your project fits within the field of study, confirm the availability of any necessary equipment or resources, describe the supervision that will be provided, and endorse you as a qualified applicant.

Group applications should have a common letter from project’s supervising professor. The supervising professor is endorsing the project as a whole.

An automatic email will be sent to the faculty members you list in your application. The email will contain a link for each faculty member to upload the letter. If needed, faculty can also submit a hard copy to the Office of

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Undergraduate Research. Letters are due **February 13th, 2013**. **Please make sure to inform your professors/recommenders early so that they will have enough time to upload their letters before the 2/13/13 letter deadline.**

3) Community or organization based support for this research initiative as indicated by a letter or email from the community based organization. **This letter or email also serves to verify that the organization exists and that the organization agrees to have the research conducted.**

**FINALISTS:** Finalists for the award will be required to give a five-minute presentation to a selection committee. After presenting, students will be asked questions regarding their proposal.

**DISCLAIMER:** Participants are solely responsible for their actions and activities for the duration of the fellowship experience, which includes any additional expenses, risks, or results associated with such actions or activities. The Office of Undergraduate Research may not be able to fund fellowships to countries listed on the U.S. Department of State’s Current Travel Warnings. For more information, visit http://travel.state.gov. Recipients travelling internationally for their research must complete the requirements found at http://global.fsu.edu/policy/index.htm. Recipients may also have to submit an application to FSU’s Institutional Review Board “IRB” for ethics clearance found at http://www.research.fsu.edu/humansubjects/

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