UNO-CHART

The University of New Orleans’ Center for Hazards Assessment, Response & Technology (UNO-CHART)

UNO-CHART’s Risk Literacy Project Finalist in Disaster Preparedness Competition

UNO-CHART’s Risk Literacy project, which promotes adult literacy and disaster preparedness simultaneously, is a finalist in Solution Search’s “Reducing Our Risk: Innovation for Disaster Preparation” contest.

The contest serves to find projects that help to reduce the risk of weather-related disasters in American communities.

Ten finalists were selected out of a total of 88 entries from 21 states. The finalists are eligible to win $25,000 from the judges, and/or $25,000 from a national online vote.

All ten finalists will travel to Washington, DC in June to attend a capacity-building workshop and awards ceremony. Research Associate Tara Lambeth will attend the workshop on behalf of CHART.


UNO-CHART, the City of New Orleans and the RTA Receive Grant from the FTA

UNO-CHART, in partnership with the City of New Orleans and the Regional Transit Authority (RTA) received funds from the Federal Transity Authority (FTA) to study the representativeness, effectiveness and efficiency of the city’s emergency evacuation process.

Over the next two years, CHART, the City of New Orleans, and the RTA will explore how to better serve the vulnerable populations of the city during evacuation planning. CHART will examine the capacity needed for the city’s vulnerable residents.

CHART will also conduct focus groups and interviews with the city’s vulnerable populations to learn their lived experiences about evacuation.

The project will culminate in two exercises testing the city’s evacuation procedures using buses, vans, ambulances, and simulated evacuees.
Louisiana Floodplain Management Association Conference Held in April 2015

The Louisiana Floodplain Management Association held its 32nd Annual Technical and Business conference in Terrebonne Parish during the second week of April.

The conference included a levee tour of Terrebonne Parish, and information on flood protection, the National Flood Insurance Program, repetitive losses, flood maps, storm surge, and coastal inundation.

The conference was attended by the Community Rating System Users Groups from across the region. The Community Rating System (CRS) is a part of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), which provides reductions to flood insurance premiums in participating communities. The purpose of a CRS Users Group is to serve as a support and educational resource for the local communities who participate in the CRS.

The local CRS Users Groups include CRAFT (Capital Region Area Floodplain Taskforce), FLOAT (Flood Loss Outreach and Awareness Taskforce), and JUMP (Jefferson Parish United Mitigation Professionals). UNO-CHART facilitates the monthly meetings for CRAFT and FLOAT, and provides assistance for JUMP’s meetings. CRAFT, FLOAT and JUMP took advantage of the conference in order to hold their monthly meetings as a large group. At the meeting, they discussed updates, resources and other floodplain management issues.

All of the Users Groups are working on their Program for Public Information (PPI). The PPI is a document which details the outreach strategy used by each individual community to help educate and inform their residents about flood insurance, flood hazards, preparing for hazards, etc.

CRAFT and FLOAT both held their third and final PPI meetings, and are in the process of finalizing the document for adoption. JUMP has held its first two meetings, and will hold the third meeting in the upcoming months.

To learn more about CRAFT, FLOAT, JUMP and the CRS process, visit floodhelp.uno.edu.

About UNO-CHART...

Founded in 2001, UNO-CHART is an applied social science hazards research center that partners with and supports Louisiana communities in efforts to achieve disaster resilience. The objectives of UNO-CHART projects are to assist residents and local and state officials in reducing risk to natural hazards, especially hurricane and climate hazards, and to help them gain a better understanding of their risk and what they can do to protect themselves from these hazards.

UNO-CHART is comprised of a multi-disciplinary group of faculty, staff, and graduate research assistants representing various academic backgrounds including sociology, political science, public administration, planning, urban studies, engineering and geography. Research efforts address repetitive flooding, disaster mitigation planning, community resilience assessments, storm mitigation efforts by coastal communities, coastal restoration, community continuity, risk literacy, risk management and hurricane evacuation of vulnerable populations.