Research Assistantship Opportunity
Hazard Mitigation Grant Program: Puerto Rico
Joint UCF/University of Puerto Rico Project

Project Description

Post storm and recovery beach changes data will be used as a baseline to begin a community dialogue that will lead to recommendations of best planning and intervention practices to reduce erosion and increase coastal resilience. The process will be conducted in two of the highest risk municipalities, with the intention of replication at other locations. Before engaging community organizers, mayors and emergency management personnel, an assessment of municipal regulatory and planning capabilities and coastal infrastructure will be conducted considering current erosion trends. Community, municipal and emergency management participation will then be required in the process of prioritizing adaptation needs and identifying suitable adaptation strategies given project results. Some of the main strategies include protection, accommodation, retreat and avoidance. A group of best practices for local coastal adaptation, including Puerto Rico, US Mainland and international efforts, will be documented to be used in discussions leading to adaptation strategies. Two focus groups with community organizers, municipal authorities and emergency management personnel participation will lead to specific recommendations for intervention in selected municipal coastal regions, considering project documentation of current erosion conditions.

During the first phase of the project, four meetings will be conducted with municipal mayors and local staff from Planning and Emergency Management offices and community leaders and organizers. The main objective of the meetings is to raise awareness of beach erosion problems and discuss possible planning interventions.

Pay: $15 an hour, 20 hours a week.

Time Period: Academic Year 2020-2021 (beginning July/August 2020).

Requirement: Master or Doctoral student, must be fully bilingual (English/Spanish).

If you're interested, please send your resume or CV to Prof. Luis Santiago (luis.santiago2@ucf.edu).