

MEMORANDUM

From: Mark B. Rosenberg, *President*

cc: Ruben D. Almaguer, *Chair, Assistant Vice President of Emergency Operations*
Sandra Gonzalez-Levy, *Co-Chair, Senior Vice President for External Relations*

To: University Community

Date: March 20, 2017

Subject: *University Interdisciplinary Disaster Task Force (IDTF)*

I would like to announce the creation of the University Interdisciplinary Disaster Task Force (IDTF). As an anchor institution in the South Florida community with a global reach, FIU is poised to provide expertise, experience and support when a disaster strikes, locally, domestically and abroad. The goal of the Task Force is to provide a mechanism to collaborate and coordinate the vast and varied resources of FIU that can assist the impacted community following a devastating event. FIU has, can and will continue to work with the community in the areas of disaster medical response, education & training, cultural preservation, public health, economic development and research.

The charge for the FIU IDTF will be to provide a forum for faculty, staff, alumni and student groups to identify and coordinate disaster response and relief projects and make recommendations in a collaborative atmosphere, with experts in the field that will best serve the needs of the impacted community. Through thoughtful discussions, brainstorming and collaboration, university resources can be leveraged, concepts can be developed into meaningful solutions, and FIU can help meet some of the short and long-term challenges facing a community recovering from a disaster. The IDTF will include members from academic and administrative units, as well as student representation and alumni.

As a university community, we are uniquely positioned to have a positive impact through the significant expertise in the Academy for International Disaster Preparedness and the FIU-Florida Advanced Surgical Transport Team, as well as several of our preeminent and emerging preeminent programs, such as the Bridge Engineering Program, Extreme Events Institute, Institute for Water and Environment, and Health Disparities Program.

MISSION:

The mission of the FIU IDTF is to provide a collaborative environment and forum where FIU resources can be effectively coordinated to best assist those communities affected by a disaster, either locally, domestically or abroad.

The Task Force will accomplish this by:

- Coordinating FIU's appropriate response to any local, state, domestic and or international disasters
- Assess the real needs of the disaster affected community by effective communication and coordinating with other responding organizations, community leaders, and government officials prior to any action taken
- Providing a forum for collaborative discussion and free exchange of ideas to formulate the best solutions for the community's post disaster challenges
- Encourage interdisciplinary disaster assistance coordination across all colleges, departments and University units
- Communicate with the FIU university community regarding our ongoing efforts in assisting the impacted disaster community
- Providing medical assistance when needed through utilizing FIU's Florida Advanced Surgical Transport Team (FIU-FAST)
- Offering subject matter experts to address specific concerns and provide training and education
- Coordinate giving campaigns following guidelines established by the US Agency for International Development (USAID) Center for International Disaster Information (CIDI)
- Fostering research in disaster prone areas to aid in disaster risk reduction

TASK FORCE MEMBERS:

1. Ruben D. Almaguer, *Chair, Assistant Vice President of Emergency Operations*
2. Sandra Gonzalez-Levy, *Co-Chair, Senior Vice President for External Relations*
3. Elizabeth Bejar, *Vice President for Academic Affairs*
4. Carlos Castillo, *General Counsel*
5. Alian Collazo, *Student Government President, MMC*
6. Andres Gil, *Vice President of Research*
7. Tomas Guilarte, *Dean, Robert Stempel College Public Health & Social Work*
8. Jaffus Hardrick, *Vice President for Human Resources*
9. Howard Lipman, *Chief Executive Officer, FIU Foundation*
10. Larry Lunsford, *Vice President for Student Affairs*
11. Javier Marques, *Chief of Staff*
12. Aime Martinez, *Associate Vice President, Business & Finance*
13. Allhan Mejia, *Student Government President, BBC*
14. Richard Olson, *Director, Extreme Events Institute*

15. Michelle Palacio, *Vice President of Government Relations Human*
16. John Rock, *Senior Vice President for Medical Affairs*
17. Ora Strickland, *Dean, College of Nursing and Health Sciences*
18. Kathleen Wilson, *Chair of Faculty Senate*

The members listed above form the core of the Task Force; however, other members may be added as warranted depending upon the type of disaster, location, geopolitical concerns and need.

MEETINGS:

The Task Force will meet every January and June unless a disaster occurs that may require a coordinated response from FIU. At that time, additional meetings will be scheduled. The Chair will schedule the meetings, set the agenda and lead the meetings. Alternates will not be permitted unless approved by the Chair. As part of the charge, the Task Force will publish a report of FIU's activities following any response.

Thank you for your support. For more information, contact Ruben Almaguer at rdalmagu@fiu.edu or Sandy Gonzalez-Levy at gonzals@fiu.edu.