## Institute/Center Data

### Directory Information

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>I/C Name:</th>
<th>International Hurricane Center</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I/C Code:</td>
<td>80.9150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University:</td>
<td>FIU</td>
</tr>
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<td>I/C Type:</td>
<td>I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I/C Director:</td>
<td>Stephen P. Leatherman, Ph.D. (Director)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discipline(s) (2-Digit CIPs):</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I/C Address:</td>
<td>Florida International University&lt;br&gt;University Park Campus, CEAS-2710&lt;br&gt;Miami, FL 33199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I/C Telephone:</td>
<td>305 348-1607</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I/C E-Mail Address:</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hurrican@fiu.edu">hurrican@fiu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I/C SUNCOM:</td>
<td>441-1607</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I/C Web Site Address:</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ihc.fiu.edu">www.ihc.fiu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I/C FAX:</td>
<td>(305) 348-1605</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affiliated Universities:</td>
<td>FAU, FSU, UCF, UF, &amp; USF</td>
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### Mission and Areas of Focus

**Mission Statement:**

Through basic research, applied research, education, and outreach, the International Hurricane Center (IHC) will help people and communities of Florida and other states and nations better understand hurricane risk and the mitigation and preparedness options available to reduce that risk.

The International Hurricane Center is an interdisciplinary research center focused on the mitigation of hurricane damage to people, the economy, and the created and natural environments. The citizens of the U.S. East and Gulf Coasts and Caribbean islands are severely impacted by hurricanes, and the IHC promotes an interdisciplinary, large-scale disaster research agenda to address this vulnerability. Disciplines such as architecture, business, economics, engineering, finance, geosciences, insurance, political science, sociology, and urban planning are involved in a long-term, integrated research program that helps Florida, the Nation, and its regional neighbors to mitigate hurricane exposure.

### Key Terms:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Areas of Focus</th>
<th>Key Terms:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hurricanes</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Beach Erosion</td>
<td>Sociology of Disasters</td>
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INTERNATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the year from July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000 the International Hurricane Center (IHC) successfully met its main objectives of: a) pursuing a multidisciplinary research agenda, b) developing and delivering educational and offerings related to hurricane issues and the larger context of emergency management and mitigation, c) raising its profile as a resource of the state of Florida, d) engaging and integrating faculty from FIU and other SUS members, e) interacting with federal, state and local agencies to further funding opportunities, and f) pursuing outreach initiatives for the local community, as well as for statewide, national and international recipients.

The success of this productive year is evidenced in the activities summarized below:

Year 1999 – 2000

1. Scholarly Activities

IHC staff and affiliated faculty implemented a full agenda of scholarly activities specifically addressing hurricane, emergency management, mitigation, and related issues. This agenda included activities ranging from speaking engagements at conferences, workshops and other forums, to the presentation of papers, community outreach presentations, as well as teaching FIU courses and the delivery of other educational/training efforts here in Florida, in other states and nations.

The IHC participated in and/or supported close to one hundred such individual events. These activities include participation in major events organized by a variety of agencies including: the 1999 National Hurricane Conference, the 1999 Florida Governor’s Hurricane Conference, the American Meteorological Society, the American Geophysical Union, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Florida Emergency Planners Association (FEPA), and others.

Attached documentation supports specific scholarly activities carried out by IHC staff and affiliated faculty.

2. Published Research

More than fifteen books, book chapters, journal articles or book reviews were published by IHC staff and affiliated faculty during the year.

Attached documentation provides specific reference to actual publications by different individuals affiliated with the IHC.
3. **External Funding Sources**

Eleven new grants totaling $1.1 million were received in response to proposals submitted by IHC staff and affiliated faculty. Funding sources include federal, state, county, municipal agencies as well as private sector sources. Funded research covered a wide range of basic science research, applied research, and training/educational projects.

During the course of the year sixteen research projects were carried out or completed representing $2.1 million in total funding.

Supporting documentation is attached listing these research activities.

At the end of the year four major research proposals, totaling $5.9 million in funding, were pending final approval or completion of the initial contracting phase. At least $2.5 million of this funding is from federal sources.

4. **Public Recognition**

Over the course of the year there were numerous instances where the mass media interviewed or quoted IHC members with regard to the work carried out by the center.

Such mass media coverage included interviews or references by NBC, CBS, CNN, CNN in Spanish, ABC, FOX News, the Travel Channel, SUS News, the Miami Herald, El Nuevo Herald, the Sun-Sentinel (Ft. Lauderdale), and such international media as TELEVISA – Mexico, ACAN-EFE – Venezuela, as well as radio and printed media in Mexico, Dominican Republic, Colombia, and Venezuela.

5. **Integration of Faculty**

The IHC continued to make a concerted effort to integrate FIU faculty members in its research, outreach, and educational activities. The IHC also continued to reach out to the SUS by engaging researchers from several SUS institutions in research and other activities.

FIU individuals involved in one or more types of activities organized and managed by the IHC include: Ricardo Alvarez, Mahadev Bhat, Claudius Carnegie, Krishnan Dandapani, Nicole Dash, Debrah Davis, Elaine Elder, Hugh Gladwin, Sneh Gulati, Shahid Hamid, Ruddolf Jaffe, Stephen Leatherman, Jose Mitrani, Betty Morrow, Richard Olson, Walter Peacock, Michael Ross, Walter Tang, Dean Whitman, Fang Zhao, and Keqi Zhang.
These faculty members represent individuals from a wide range of FIU departments, colleges and centers including: Construction Management, Environmental Studies, Sociology, Political Science, Finance, Geology, Civil Engineering, Environmental Engineering, Mechanical engineering, Statistics, HCET, and IPOR.

The IHC also implemented and supported the development of the Laboratory for Social and Behavioral Research focusing on the human impacts of hurricane and the social vulnerability to hurricanes and other hazards.

Additionally the IHC engaged researchers from other SUS institutions including USF, UCF, UF, FSU, and FAU.

During the year the IHC initiated a joint effort with the Latin American and Caribbean Center (LACC) at FIU to bring guest speakers from abroad and from within the U.S. to address issues of “Disaster Management and Economic Development in the Americas”. It is anticipated that at least one speaker per quarter will be invited to visit under this collaborative initiative.

Year 2000 – 2001

Some of the main activities of the IHC during the course of this coming fiscal year shall include the following:

1. **Scholarly Activities:**

The IHC will pursue major research projects with funding from federal and state public sources. These projects include: a) hurricane simulation and modeling work using high resolution data from the IHC’s airborne laser technology funded by a grant $2.5 million from FEMA to be matched by $833,000 contributed by five counties, b) hurricane loss reduction in housing and manufactured housing, to be funded by $1.4 million, over two years, by Florida Department of Community Affairs (DCA), and c) development of a hurricane loss model, to be funded with a $1.2 million grant from Florida Dept. of Insurance.

2. **Teaching and Training Activities:**

The IHC will continue to offer its EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND HAZARD MITIGATION CERTIFICATE PROGRAM as a continuing education effort targeting professionals and practitioners in several fields.

The IHC will also continue to work with local, national and international agencies and institutions in the development and delivery of a wide range of educational and training efforts. These include continuing to work with USF and SOUTHCOM in educational offerings to audiences in the larger Caribbean basin and in Latin America.
3. **Service and Outreach Activities:**

The IHC will continue to work with the SUS on several initiatives, including convening the 3rd SUS Hurricane Researchers Meeting.

The IHC will continue to support the activities of FEMA, FEPA, EPA, NOAA, USGS, NSF, and other federal agencies as well as State DCA, Dept. of Insurance, FEPA, and others.

The IHC expects to play strong roles in the National Hurricane Conference, the Florida Governor’s Hurricane Conference, the Broward County South Florida Hurricane Conference, the FEPA Annual Conference, and other forums.

4. **Opportunities for Students**

At present the IHC supports six graduate students providing research assistantships in different disciplines related to research carried out by the center.

The IHC expect to increase such graduate student support to at least nine positions during this coming year, with an ultimate goal of possibly doubling the present number of positions.

5. **Integration of Faculty**

The IHC will continue to integrate faculty from across the full range of disciplines available in colleges, departments, and centers within FIU.

One specific effort planned for this coming year will be the development of a laboratory within the IHC dedicated to economic, financial and insurance studies related to hurricanes. Such a laboratory could engage faculty with expertise in such disciplines as: actuarial science, statistics, computer modeling, mathematics, architecture, structural engineering, computer simulation.