



## ***Instructionally Related Activities Report Form***

**SPONSOR:** DR. MICHAEL POWELSON AND DR. SEAN ANDERSON

**DEPARTMENT:** HISTORY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

**ACTIVITY TITLE:** DISASTER ON THE DELTA: TEN YEARS SINCE HURRICANE KATRINA

**DATE (S) OF ACTIVITY:** OCTOBER 16, 2015

### **(1) PROVIDE A DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY:**

2015 MARKED THE TEN YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF HURRICANE KATRINA THAT HIT NEW ORLEANS AND A MAJOR PART OF THE GULF COAST. ON OCTOBER 16 A ONE-DAY CONFERENCE WAS HELD TO ASSESS THE HURRICANE'S DAMAGE, THE ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND SOCIAL RESPONSE TO THE DISASTER AS WELL AS WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED FROM THIS EXPERIENCE. EYE WITNESS ACCOUNTS PROVIDED SOME OF THE MOST DRAMATIC MOMENTS OF THE CONFERENCE THAT INCLUDED SCIENTIFIC STUDIES AS WELL AS REPORTS ON THE PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE TO THE CRISIS AND AN ANALYSIS OF HURRICANE KATRINA FROM A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE.

### **(2) HOW DID THE ACTIVITY RELATE TO A COURSE(S) AND/OR LEARNING OBJECTIVES?**

PAPERS RELATED TO PUBLIC HEALTH RELATED DIRECTLY TO THE CSUCI'S NURSING PROGRAM, AND, IN FACT, THREE CSUCI NURSING STUDENTS PRESENTED THEIR PAPER "PUBLIC HEALTH LEADERSHIP IN A CRISIS." PAPERS ON THE SCIENCE BEHIND THE HURRICANE RELATED TO CSUCI'S DEPARTMENTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES AND GEOLOGY WHILE PAPERS CONCERNING THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF THE HURRICANE RELATED TO CLASSES TAUGHT IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF HISTORY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE.

### **(3) WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE STRENGTHS OF THE ACTIVITY?**

TO PRESENT, TEN YEARS AFTER THE EVENT, THE ENVIRONMENTAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACT THAT HURRICANE KATRINA HAD ON THE UNITED STATES. IN ADDITION, THE CONFERENCE INFORMED STUDENTS THAT ATTENDED OF AN EVENT THAT THEY KNEW LITTLE OR NOTHING ABOUT. FINALLY, FOR EYE WITNESS ACCOUNTS IT WAS A CHANCE FOR THEM TO TELL AN AUDIENCE ABOUT THIS TRAUMATIC EVENT, WHICH SERVED AS A CATALYST FOR THE PRESENTERS AND AN EYE-OPENER FOR THE ATTENDEES.

### **(4) WHAT WOULD YOU SAY ARE/WERE THE ACTIVITY'S WEAKNESSES?**

CONFERENCE WAS LIMITED IN SCOPE; THERE COULD HAVE BEEN MANY OTHER TOPICS COVERED. SINCE THERE HAS BEEN SO MANY REPORTS AND CONFERENCES ON THE TEN YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF HURRICANE KATRINA THE CONFERENCE RECEIVED LESS ATTENTION THAT IT OTHERWISE WOULD HAVE.

**(5) HOW WOULD YOU IMPROVE THIS ACTIVITY FOR NEXT TIME?**

I WOULD SPEND MORE TIME REACHING OUT TO BOTH PRESENTERS AND ATTENDEES ALIKE. WE HAD A GOOD CROWD BUT NOT A GREAT CROWD. I WOULD ALSO BE MORE ON TOP OF RECORDING THE EVENT AND POSTING IT ON SOCIAL MEDIA.

**(6) WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM THE PROCESS?**

THAT THERE ARE VERY TALENTED AND THOUGHTFUL PEOPLE THAT COULD HAVE MADE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO THIS DISASTER BY UNFORTUNATELY WERE STIFLED BY BUREAUCRATIC RED TAPE FROM BOTH THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR. I ALSO LEARNED HOW THE RESPONSE TO HURRICANE KATRINA HAS UNFORTUNATELY BECOME A MODEL THAT IS FOLLOWED IN FUTURE DISASTERS, WHETHE NATURAL OR HUMAN MADE.

**(7) WHAT ARE STUDENT RESPONSES TO THE ACTIVITY? ATTACH STUDENT EVALUATIONS OR ASSESSMENTS**

BELOW ARE A THREE STUDENT RESPONSES:

1) I had the great opportunity to attend the Katrina Conference where up-to-date ideas I had never heard about were shared. The truth is that the devastation and aftermath left by the 2005 Hurricane, Katrina still haunts us to this day. Concepts were shared by great speakers, experts in their field, whether it be about the climate, food, or the political and environmental perspective regarding the devastation in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and especially New Orleans. A topic spoken very little about as an example of many individual's unfamiliar knowledge about what really happened behind the news cameras.

The topic of climate did come up and it is important to point at environmental factors that can contribute to extreme weather, such as the influence humans have on the atmosphere which may endanger us decades to come. Additionally regarding New Orleans, we see it is a great place for tourists to visit, enjoy the culture, food, and activities. Further, instead of rebuilding or recovering damaged areas for people who lost everything, there are areas for tourists to come and enjoy the place being built to hang out instead of reconstructing lost homes.

Another interesting topic that came up was the documentary by Harry Shearer "The Big Uneasy, shown earlier in the semester by Professor Powelson. This documentary really explains the truth of what happened in New Orleans and how the disaster that occurred was not only caused by the Hurricane but by ignored manmade engineering and poor judgment, an argument I had never heard about.

Finally the last speaker did an effective job in pointing out how to this day people left in poverty and without a home, are not being helped and are being further corrupted taking away their homes that were not even damaged. This disaster and its aftermath is a great example of how future officials can better prepare the public and their emergency plans to not let this happen again.

2) The interviews that were shown during the Disaster on the Delta conference “transformed time and public space”. In my experience during this discussion, it brought up true emotions and brought the outcome of Hurricane Katrina into perspective. The feeling of sadness and desperation was shown from these interviewers as we listened on their personal experiences. Without a word of help or compassion from their community’s officials, families that were left in their homes were looked as criminals. In all, it is crucial for officials and its leaders to gain the best technical skills, interpersonal skills, conceptual skills, and emotional intelligence to protect the public from future disasters.

3) Vanessa van Heerden, a student from Channel Islands, gave her presentation titled, "History Made by Storm" about how the levies systems were not only a complete failure but that the answer instead of making bigger walls to instead go back and use nature and (recreate the nearly lost) environment as a natural barrier for future storms. This is better for the plant and wildlife (quickly disappearing) and also the fact that more lives will be saved and less destruction with a natural environmental barrier between the city and future Katrinas. The next speaker was Dr. Richard Hallet of Northeastern Illinois University and he spoke about the linguistic side of New Orleans and how they draw tourism in, before and after the storm. Next was presenter, Dr. David Klein and his presentation was over the startling facts that global warming is basically a direct result of capitalism. Capitalism is based in greed and there is no limit to it because for it to survive it needs to grow. And as Dr. Klein pointed out the earth is a limited resource and if we keep fueling Capitalism then it will no doubt mean the end of the Earth the way we know it. Lastly, I stayed for Harry Shearer, who created the documentary of, "The Big Uneasy". He spoke about his time making the documentary and mostly commented on the incompetence of the Core of Engineers and how not only the levies system was a complete failure in all matters but the fact that they practically have immunity from repercussions of their failure, they have no remorse for the damage and destruction caused by their incompetence, and they still are contracted (or actually they contract out) by different governmental projects (that they themselves are predicted to be engineering failures and more destruction is yet to come). When there was the Q&A I asked, "I am not an engineer nor a physics major, and yet I can understand how and why the levies system would fail. How could they call themselves engineers if they are making such incredible stupid mistakes? Who hires these people? How do they get hired? Are their names put down on these projects so we know who they are and can hold them responsible?" and later after his explanation I noted that he should create a documentary of who the Core of Engineers are and how they get hired.



8) GIVE A SUMMARY OF EXPENSES FOR THE ACTIVITY.

**Conference: Ten Years  
Since Hurricane Katrina  
CSUCI October 16, 2015  
Broome Library**

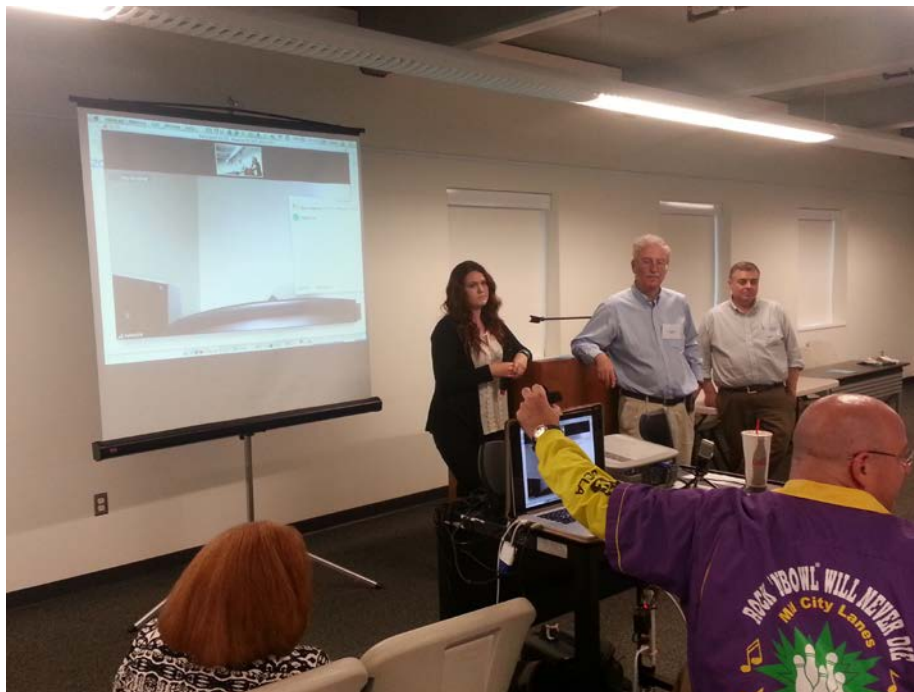
	<b>\$</b>
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>1,464.00</b>
<a href="#">Amazon Labels</a>	\$ (21.33)
<a href="#">Flyer Copies</a>	\$ (30.68)
<a href="#">Flyers</a>	\$ (25.00)
Honorarium-John Arena	\$(1,000.00)
Honorarium-Nan Yamane	\$ (350.00)
Balance	\$ 36.99

Accounting String:  
Proposal 720

B. ON SEPARATE DOCUMENT, PLEASE ATTACH ATTENDEE LIST (PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFO REMOVED)

(ATTENDEE LIST ATTACHED)

C. PLEASE INCLUDE UP TO 6 IMAGES AS ATTACHMENTS TO YOUR EMAIL SUBMISSION





## List of Attendees for Conference on Hurricane Katrina

I estimated that fifty people attended the conference but I did not pass around a mandatory signup sheet. Below are the names of people that attended and voluntarily signed up. Most are CSUCI students.

Katrina Carrasco  
Fatima Hernandez  
Cassidy Rector  
Melissa Magana  
Nicole Cardinale  
Tearney Lopez  
Brenda Lievanos  
Megan Quinn  
Olivia Graza  
David Klein  
Nan Yamane  
Sean Anderson  
Day Spencer  
Markar Melokian  
Kim Gregory  
Vanessa van Herden  
Richard Hallett  
Cassandra Casteel  
Zin Htway  
Tom Huggins  
David Montero