



# ICAR

THE INITIATIVE ON COASTAL ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE

## ICAR & Storm Squad Community Annual Review 2023

G-SAL Lab



UNIVERSITY of  
**SOUTH FLORIDA**  
ST. PETERSBURG

# Our Mission

- Use research and education to provide the understanding and ideas needed to make critical decisions regarding our changing and vulnerable coasts
- Engaging stakeholders to facilitate adoption of policies and practices focused on coastal adaptation and resilience
- This transdisciplinary initiative includes the science, engineering, policy and social sciences and will examine the interactions between climate change, water systems, land use, the built environment and ecosystem functions.

# Engaging With The Community

With our sponsors and partners such but not limited to NSF, Duke, and FLFPC... We were able to provide a monthly safe space for individuals who wanted to share personal experiences and major community concerns.

## Thank You Sponsors & Partners



# Overall Event Attendance

- June 10th: 17 Attendees
- September 30th: 15 Attendees
- October 14th: 35 Attendees
- December 6th: 26 Attendees

# Community-based Planning Meeting

A planning meeting was held to discuss plans for the Storm Squad and future events!

# Sept 30th Event

- 10 AM to 1 PM at Enoch Davis Community Center, 1111 18th Ave S. St. Petersburg, FL 33705.
- A group of community members met to discuss plans for the October 14th town hall event.
- Dr. Barnali Dixon reviewed CRIS with the attendees
- Bay Area Legal Services presented an overview of available disaster resources that are free to access.
- Opportunities for CERT training were discussed and a sign-up list was provided for those interested.
- An Q&A session was held along with an open discussion on recruitment plans, the agenda for the October event, and thoughts on having news media in attendance at events.





# Community Town Hall Events

In addition to the planning meeting, town hall events were held  
in various locations!



# June 10th Event

- 10 AM to 12 PM at Mattie L. Gardner Center, 2427 Irving Ave South, St. Petersburg FL 33712.
- 17 Attendees
- The Storm Squad and CRIS were introduced to the community
- FEMA was in attendance and provided assistance to the community
- A breakout session was held to discuss major disaster preparedness and recovery concerns:
  - What are the major concerns that impact their ability to prepare?
  - How inflation is impacting their ability to prepare for disaster and food security
  - Based on your past experience -if hit by a hurricane -what will be the biggest need facing your neighborhood?
  - What do they like to know more?
- Lunch was provided and appreciation gifts were distributed.



# October 14th Event

- 10 AM to 1 PM at the Mount Zion Progressive Missionary Baptist Church, 955 20th St. S. Saint Petersburg, FL.
- 35 Attendees were present.
- Erica Hall presented an update of the Storm Squad as community members gathered for coffee and pastries.
- Dr. Barnali Dixon reviewed her research in Pinellas County and shared a presentation on iCAR and CRIS.
- The Florida Food Policy Council gave a presentation on resources available to the community.
- FEMA and Pinellas County Emergency Management gave presentations on disaster resources that are available to community residents.
- A Q&A session was hosted by a representative from Southeast Climate and Energy Network
- Surveys were distributed and attendees had an opportunity to complete them.
- A breakout session was held asking questions pertaining disaster preparedness and recovery concerns, which led to a larger group discussion.
- Disaster preparedness items were distributed in a raffle and attendees were provided with a box lunch.



# December 6th Event

- 6 PM to 8 PM at the Enoch Davis Community Center, 1111 18th Ave S St. Petersburg, FL 33705.
- 26 Attendees were present
- Community members gathered for dinner as Erica Hall provided an update on the Storm Squad and insights on the mission of the organization.
- Dr. Barnali Dixon gave a presentation on CRIS and her research within the community, sharing resources and funding opportunities that may benefit the community.
- Mary Burrell presented on her work with Pinellas County Emergency Management and shared the roles and responsibilities of Storm Squad Ambassadors and Storm Captains.
- Erica Hall shared information on her role in CERT and the roles and responsibilities of CERT members in the Storm Squad.
- A community survey was distributed and time was allotted to allow attendees to complete it. The applications for Ambassadors and CERT were also distributed with time to complete them.
- The event concluded with a raffle drawing of disaster preparedness items.







**Barnali Dixon, Ph. D**  
**Professor, School of**  
**Geosciences,**  
**Executive Director of iCAR**  
**Director of Geo-Spatial**  
**Analytics Lab**

**bdixon@usf.edu**

**Associate Editor, Journal of the American**  
**Water Resource Association (JAWRA)**

**PRW 118N, University of South**  
**Florida 140 Seventh Ave South,**  
**St. Petersburg FL 33701**

