



ICAR

THE INITIATIVE ON COASTAL ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE

ICAR & Storm Squad Townhall

Saturday, May 3rd Townhall Meeting @ Lealman & Asian Neighborhood Family Center

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

- The most recent community outreach and educational program was held locally at the **Lealman and Asian Neighborhood Family Center** on Saturday May 3rd, 2025.
- With our sponsors and partners such but not limited to NSF, Duke, and FLFP. This provided a safe space for individuals who wanted to share personal experiences and major community concerns.



Welcome & Registration



- At 10:00 A.M: Local residents of the neighboring communities gathered for pastries, signed in for the event and had the opportunity to pick up informational pamphlets provided by our tabling organizations. Surveys were distributed at sign in.



Agenda

Welcome and Introduction:

- Erica Hall, Executive Director, Community Collaborative of Florida and Executive Director, the Florida Food Policy Council
- Vietnamese translation services were provided by Ms. Thuat Truong, the Program Coordinator for the Center.
- Reviewed the schedule for the day
- Attendees had the opportunity to fill out the iCAR Food Security, Health and Disaster Preparation survey



Food Security, Health, &
Disaster Preparations



Food Security Survey

We want to hear about your
experiences.

[Take Survey](#)



Promoting Community Engaged Resilience in the Face of Flooding and Other Extreme Events via Storm Squad

Dr. Barnali Dixon, Initiative on Coastal Adaptation and Resilience (iCAR), University of South Florida St. Petersburg campus

- Reviewed maps and data collected from the community.
- Discussed the need for data sharing and the importance of the Storm Squad in the event of disaster.



Flood-Related Activity

- Attendees participated in a flood-related activity, testing their perspectives of flood levels.
- The activity was translated into Vietnamese to accommodate language needs.



Hurricane Season 2025 Looking Ahead

- Mary Burrell, Whole Community Engagement Program Lead, Pinellas County Emergency Management
- Reviewed disaster resources and demonstrated an example hurricane kit.



Lunch

- Attending community members enjoyed a provided lunch consisting of salad, sandwiches, popcorn chicken, drinks, and snacks.
- Attendees also had the opportunity to connect with other community members and professionals presenting at the event.



Community Resources

- Attendees had the opportunity to stop by tabling organizations to learn more about available resources in the area.
- Each organization provided a brief presentation on their various services.
 - Bay Area Legal Services
 - Seniors in Service
 - First Contact
 - Pinellas County Emergency Management



Community Resources





Closing & Door Prizes

- Closing remarks on the activities of the day
- Raffle drawings for disaster recovery and preparedness items



Barnali Dixon, Ph. D
Professor, School of
Geosciences
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

