

## Exploring Adaptive Approaches to Emergency Preparedness Programming

**Session Presenters:**  
Michelle Eley, North Carolina A&T State University  
Kittrane Sanders, Harnett County Center  
Kimberly Davis, Florida A&M University

**20<sup>th</sup> Annual National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals Conference**  
June 9-12, 2025  
Charleston, West Virginia

## Presentation Objectives

- Highlight adaptive approaches to programming conducted by an interdisciplinary team of Extension professionals to reach a broader audience while strengthening institutional capacity to work in disaster education
- Discuss creative ways to enhance sharing of resources across state lines and from institution to institution



1890-EDEN Advisory Group Face-to-Face Meeting at FAMU (May 2022)

## Preparation Outline

- Background
- Program Integration
- Information Sharing/Wrap-Up
- Q&A

## Why Should We Be Concerned?

Preparedness is a local matter, but a shared responsibility.

Populations with higher levels of social vulnerability are more likely to be adversely affected.

Preparedness could make the difference between life and death

- The lack thereof can lead to lasting consequences

A one-size-fits-all approach for emergency planning and response does not work to prevent disasters.

## Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN)

- EDEN is a collaborative multi-state effort by Cooperative Extension Services across the USA specifically to improve the delivery of services to citizens affected by disasters
- The 1890-EDEN Advisory Group work to:
  - strengthen 1890 Extension's capacity and commitment to address disaster issues within underserved populations
  - strengthen 1890s capacity to identify and disseminate research-based disaster education to underserved populations
  - enhance the abilities of underserved individuals, families, communities, organizations, agencies and businesses to prepare for all phases of disasters
  - advocate for the creation and/or maintain up-to-date emergency operations plans at all 1890 LGUs
- Academic institutions have made sizeable contributions in the communities where they reside by contributing to community resilience and dimensions of disaster preparedness (Dunlop, Logue, Beltran & Isakov, 2011)
- Dunlop, Logue and Isakov (2014) also claim that a tremendous amount of resources critical to community disaster resilience can be attributed to academic institutions of higher education
- NIFA recognized "Disaster Preparedness, Mitigation, Response & Recovery" as a new knowledge area in 2019

## Past & Current Collaborative Grant Projects

**Toward Culturally Responsive Disaster Management for Limited Resource Producers: The Role of Person, Place and Professional Agencies**

- PVAMU, NCA&T, TSU, UAPB, FAMU and Tuskegee

**Building Small Town and Rural Resilience Through Equity-Informed-Land Use Planning and Policy**

- TAMU, The American Planning Association, Southern University A&M College, Alcorn State University, Tuskegee, Alabama A&M and FAMU

**Developing a Training Program on Surviving Disasters Through Risk Management Preparation and Best Management Practices for Farm Families**

- NC A&T, PVAMU, TSU, and UABP



*The National Academies of* | SCIENCES  
ENGINEERING  
MEDICINE  
**GULF RESEARCH PROGRAM**

## Mobilizing Against Threats to Community Health (MATCH<sup>4</sup>)

- Proposal submitted to Southern Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education Program (funding pending)

### Project Team

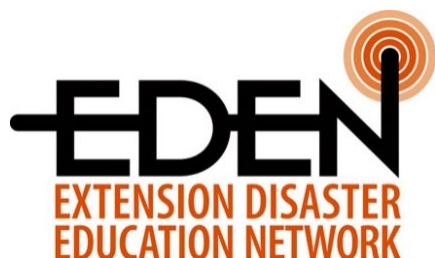
- Noel M. Estwick, PI, Prairie View A&M University
- Marco Robinson, Prairie View A&M University
- Ashley James-Pellerin, Prairie View A&M University
- Kimberly Davis, Florida A&M University
- Saundra Glover, University of South Carolina
- Patrick J. Holladay, Troy University, GA
- Michelle Eley, North Carolina A&T State University
- Vanessa Forbes, University of the Virgin Islands

### Cooperating Lead Farmers

- Georgia
- North Carolina
- Florida
- U.S. Virgin Islands (St. Croix and St. Thomas)



Program Examples to  
Showcase How  
Disaster Education is  
Integrated into Current  
Programming



## Family, Youth and Community

**Kimberly Davis**

Extension Emergency Management Specialist  
CRD Program Leader  
Cooperative Extension Program  
Florida A&M University

### FAMU Extension Disaster Preparedness and Safety Education Program

#### Program Purpose:

To prepare youth, families, older adults, and businesses to be more resilient in the face of natural and man-made disasters through comprehensive, research-based, community-centered education and outreach.

#### Program Objectives:

- Strengthen Community Resilience
- Reduce Vulnerability Through Education
- Empower Individuals Through Extension Programming
- Support Everyday Safety
- Foster Community Partnerships
- Promote Year-Round Preparedness Awareness







## FAMU 4-H Youth Preparedness and Safety

### 4-H-Led Safety Education:

- Engage 4-H clubs in safety-focused projects and incorporate emergency planning service-learning opportunities.

### Deliver Preparedness Curricula in Title I Schools:

- Provide in-class and afterschool programming in underserved schools.
- Use interactive, standards-aligned curricula that teach disaster safety, emergency kits, and decision-making skills.

### Support Participation in Florida Severe Weather Awareness Week:

- Partner with schools to promote participation in the Florida **Statewide Tornado Drill** and other educational activities.
- Offer ready-to-use classroom materials, activity books, or weather safety kits.



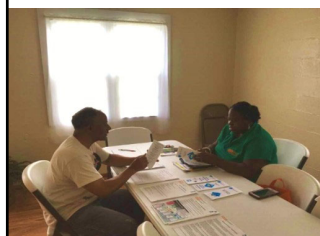
## FAMU 4-H Youth Preparedness and Safety (cont'd.)

### Summer Camp Integration :

- Integrate emergency preparedness into STEM summer camps focused on Earth science (hurricanes, floods, wildfires, drought), natural resources and sustainability and renewable energy and climate resilience

### Youth Ambassadors for Preparedness:

- Support their participation in teen CERT, Youth Preparedness Council, MyPI, or community drills.



## Other Program Activities

### • Workshops:

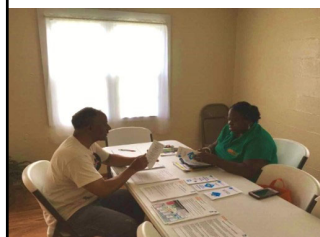
- Community sessions on creating emergency plans, assembling kits, and understanding local hazards.
- Provide guidance to individuals and small farm owners on documentation and FEMA/SBA or other recovery assistance application processes.

### • Aging Gracefully: Staying Safe and Prepared:

- Lessons for older adults include being prepared for emergencies, preventing falls and fires at home, creating communication plans, and staying connected to family and caregivers for safety and support.

### • Hurricane & Health Fairs & Festivals:

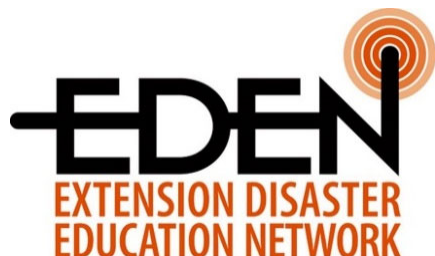
- Interactive, family-friendly events with local partners (Red Cross, emergency management) to distribute educational materials and supplies.



## Other Program Activities: (cont'd.)

- **Preparedness and Risk Management for Small Farms:** Workshops on livestock evacuation, protecting farm infrastructure, crop insurance, and business continuity planning.
- **Community Resiliency Planning:** Facilitate discussions with local leaders, schools, small businesses, and farmers to identify vulnerabilities and build collective response strategies.
- **Mitigation Education:** Promote risk reduction practices such as flood-proofing homes, maintaining defensible space for wildfires, and securing agricultural assets.
- **Year-Round Outreach:** Regular campaigns during National Preparedness Month (September), National Hurricane Preparedness Week (May), wildfire season, etc.

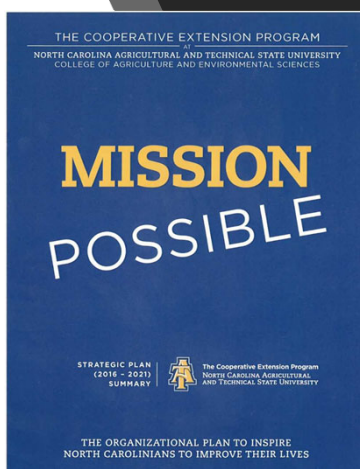




## Community Resource Development

**Kittrane Sanders &  
Michelle Eley**

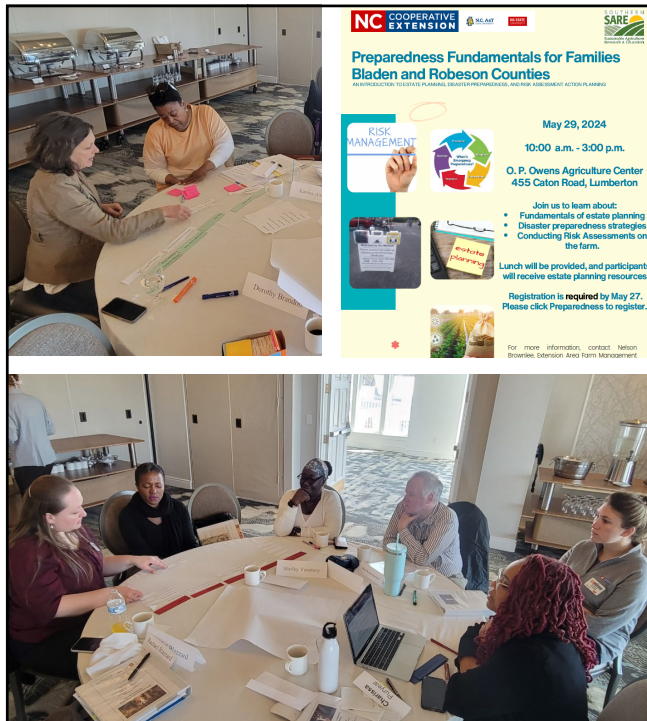
Community & Economic Development Program  
Cooperative Extension at  
N.C. A&T State University



## Emergency Preparedness became a Priority Program Area at N.C. A&T

- **ISSUE**: Low-income and minority communities are significantly vulnerable during natural disasters
- **GOAL**: Partner and collaborate with statewide agencies and first responder organizations and groups to ensure support during disasters and emergencies for minorities and underserved communities





## Community Resource Development

- Grassroots Leadership Academy
  - A training series that served as in-service training opportunity for Extension staff and stakeholder groups (e.g., community and organizational leaders, volunteers, and community residents)
- Preparedness Fundamentals for Families
  - Goal as to educate families on topics related to estate planning and disaster preparedness

## Harnett County Program Highlights



## Program Workshops Held:

### Be Prepared: Disaster Preparedness



**June 17, 2025**  
**Free Virtual Workshop**  
**12 pm – 1 pm, ET**

Register at:  
<https://bit.ly/4crdTwN>

#### 4 steps to disaster planning

—  
**Identify your family, and community needs**

—  
**Easy, free and low-cost disaster preparation & mitigation planning**

—  
**How to protect your home and other assets**

—  
**Financial preparedness for a disaster**

Register by June 13th to be eligible to win emergency supplies

Disaster  
 Preparedness  
 Starts With You

"Are Your Ducks in a Row?"

Presenter: Kittrane Sanders, Community Rural Development Agent



## Take-a-ways to serve clientele

1. Keep it Simple and Actionable
2. Acknowledge Financial Constraints
3. Use Trusted Local Messengers
4. Leverage Existing Touchpoints
5. Ensure Access to Alerts & Info
6. Include Marginalized Needs

## Create ways to share resources...



Prep-in-a-Bag



Mobile Resource  
Stations



Attach Resources to  
Essential Services



Use Informal Channels  
& Community  
Influencers



Incentive-Based  
Learning

What have you seen  
that is needed to  
enhance our capacity  
to deliver disaster  
education to diverse  
audiences?





## Wrap-Up/ Questions