United We Stan



Courtesy of uncfsu.edu/cdhs

By Theresa "Raey" Walker

Are you interested in working to defend the U.S. and world against natural and man-made disasters? You may be in luck. On Fayetteville State University campus, the Center for Defense and Homeland Security (CDHS), is developing programs to do just that.

CDHS is a cutting edge research facility that is spearheaded by Dr. Curtis Charles, senior associate vice chancellor and director of CDHS at FSU. The center is necessary to "prepare the next generation for the workforce specializing in national security and defense,"

Dr. Charles said. "It also helps that help because they will understand how Fort Bragg, the Headquarters [staff] of the Army, who work alongside FSU's CDHS to help prevent and combat these catastrophic and man-made disasters, is right in our backyard.'

Training tomorrow's leader in STEM

The recent emphasis placed on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) within the last decade is helping students become more engaged in these areas in order to compete within the U.S. and around the world

Dr. Charles stressed the importance of having K-12 students being exposed to STEM because, as cliche as it sounds, these children are the future and if they aren't able to catch up with innovative science and technology they will be left behind.

"We must prepare the next generation and in order to do that we must impact K-12 first," said Dr. Charles.

When Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans, for instance there were few, if any correspondents that were able to communicate clearly with the victims of the storm. Some people didn't understand the culture or language, therefore communication was dwarfed and getting help to the victims was stalled.

"When we incorporate more minorities into the equation they can better

to communicate," Dr. Charles said. "It is vital that we ensure women and minorities are getting into the STEM fields." However, he added that developing communication devices specific to the needs and training people to use them properly is a vital necessity.

What does CDHS offer

Research provided by CDHS is an extra step FSU educators have emphasized, making competition for jobs in homeland security more realistic for students. The research at CDHS focuses on four main areas: Infrastructure Protection & Disaster Management, Cyber Security Systems, Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance & Reconnaissance (or C4ISR), and Chemical and Biological Countermeasures. Each of these areas translates into research that continuously needs to be conducted and jobs that need to be filled in the near future.

CDHS does not offer a degree. It is a catalyst for STEM, however, it provides opportunities and grants for students to participate in internships at Oakridge National Laboratory and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (M.I.T.). This past summer FSU sent six students to these institutions and allowed for students to network within their chosen fields.

The CDHS recognizes that in the

very near future there will be a vacancy of jobs within the national security and defense areas due to many retirees. FSU hopes to fill those vacancies with some of its students. According to recruit.com, the average mean income for an individual in STEM related fields \$77,880 and only four of the STEM occupations were below \$43,460. In order to to compete in STEM careers, applicants must have a clean police record. In fact, many of the jobs that involve national security require a background check and a security clearance.

Just last week, New Orleans and surrounding areas were threatened again with Tropical Storm Isaac. This time, the city, state, and surrounding areas were better prepared because they invested in the infrastructure and improved communication, which were direct results for CDHS's research and technologies

So, the next time you wonder what you can do with a degree in biology, chemistry, computer science, mass communications or any field, stop and think about what CDHS at FSU can do for you. For more information about the Center for Defense and Homeland Security log onto their FSU webpage at http://www.uncfsu.edu/cdhs/cdhsscholars.htm



MO-MONEY, MO-MONEY, MO-MONEY!!!

Very soon your fingers will begin to itch in anticipation of the arrival of that ever faithful disbursement check from Financial Aid. While it might be very tempting, upon its arrival, to deposit/cash this money so that it can be spent on a WANT, the Office of Career Services would like to highly encourage you to invest a small amount of this money into a NEED. No college student should be without at least one professional suit. Fall Career Fair, interviews, networking opportunities, and various other University events await you and we simply want to encourage you to be your best by first looking your best

Professional Attire Checklist

- Pressed and professional suit; dark colors: gray, navy, black, or brown. Solids or muted pinstripes.
- Jacket and pants should be the same color
- White or conservative color dress shirt. Straight collar; long sleeves
- Conservative tie
- Polished shoes and matching belt
- Close toed shoes no longer than 2"
- Flesh tone hosiery to compliment suit and long enough that skin is not seen when legs are crossed









