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Public Invited to Advisory Meeting for UL Lafayette's Hazard Mitigation Plan on June 15

LAFAYETTE, La. -- The University of Louisiana at Lafayette has scheduled a second public meeting on its hazard mitigation plan as part of the Disaster Resistant University (DRU) grant program administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The gathering will be at 2:00 p.m. Monday, June 15, at UL Lafayette's Abdalla Hall, 635 Cajundome Blvd., in the auditorium. Following the initial meeting in April which identified potential hazards, this meeting will focus on the results of a risk assessment and will allow participants to begin discussing mitigation goals and objectives.

Under the leadership of the University's National Incident Management Systems and Advanced Technologies (NIMSAT) Institute, UL Lafayette officials have been working to develop a comprehensive hazard mitigation plan that includes a risk assessment and a hazard mitigation strategy to identify projects that will reduce the risk of loss of life, injury, and property damage from future natural and man-made disasters. This process includes input from an Advisory Committee made up of university and non-university stakeholders.

Each year, millions of FEMA grant dollars are made available to eligible applicants via hazard mitigation programs. With an approved hazard mitigation plan, UL Lafayette will be eligible for these competitive grant funds to implement mitigation projects in the future.

To create the hazard mitigation plan, FEMA awarded UL Lafayette a \$157,500 grant. DRU emphasizes the economic impact and interdependence of universities with surrounding communities and remains the model for hazard assessment and mitigation planning. The University is collaborating with James Lee Witt Associates, a part of the Global Options Group, to develop the plan in accordance with state and federal standards.

For more information on the meeting or on DRU, contact the NIMSAT Institute at (337) 482-0638.