



SUNY EMPIRE
STATE COLLEGE

2
0
1
9

NY Stands with Puerto Rico Recovery and Rebuilding Initiative

Jim McMahon

Student Services Coordinator

Ashley Vanderhall

2nd Year Graduate
MBA in Management
Advanced Certificate in HR Management

Aaryah Jessop

Senior Undergraduate
Interdisciplinary Studies

Dennis McGraw

Undergraduate
Community & Human Services
Concentration in Emergency Management

Diane Owens

2nd Year Undergraduate
BA in The Arts
Concentration in Studio Art

Lisa Schnitzer

1st Year Graduate
Community & Economic Development
Advanced Certificate in Community Advocacy

Carline Penal

2nd Year Undergraduate
Community & Human Services
Concentration in Healthcare Management



Challenges & Obstacles

- Language barriers
- Unsafe working conditions
- Lack of transportation during free time
- Unexpected expenses
- Time away from family

Overcoming Challenges

- Pair with bilingual student
- Make transportation arrangements
- Offer virtual training prior to trip
- Ensure that working groups have optimal ratios of skilled, semi-skilled, and unskilled laborers

Benefits & Takeaways

- Breaking diversity barriers
- Future community service plans
- Personal reward
- Teamwork
- Creation of lifetime friendships

Improvements to the Program

- Raise awareness
- Create a peer mentor program pairing previously deployed students with first-time volunteers
- Make donations of items needed by the organizations volunteering with
- Make learning experiences a requirement for Emergency Management programs

Support Similar Efforts

- Create a college service group
- Hold events to raise awareness
- Provide fundraising opportunities
- Partner with trade/apprentice programs to provide crash-course in relevant skills & worksite safety

Interested in Participating?

- Watch for emails & college website for events
- Learn basic construction skills
- Learn basic Spanish
- Research worksite safety