



FEMA

November 23, 2010

Carol Cwiak, J.D., Ph.D.
Executive Director
Emergency Management Higher Education Consortium
P.O. Box 6050
Fargo, ND 58108-6050

Dear Dr. Cwiak:

Thank you for your letter of October 25, 2010, expressing your interest and support of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Higher Education Program. Your correspondence captures the exceptional skill and understanding that Dr. Wayne Blanchard brought to this position for so many years. We recognize the bridge between higher education and practitioner communities is a critical programmatic effort to strengthen our emergency management capabilities.

Our intent is to fill the position as soon as possible. The qualifications and characteristics you list in your letter will be strongly considered as we follow FEMA's recruitment process. Throughout this process, we are focused on recruiting the most qualified person.

In the interim, the Higher Education Program is under the direction of the Chief of Mitigation at FEMA's Emergency Management Institute (EMI), Lillian Virgil, and the Acting Superintendent, Vilma Schifano Milmo. Under the guidance of the Mitigation Chief, the Program Support Assistant, Barbara Johnson, is coordinating day-to-day operations of the program including updating the Higher Education Website and disseminating information through the weekly activity report. Lillian Virgil will accept proposals and extracts through March for presentation during next year's annual EMI Higher Education conference.

FEMA is committed to ensuring the Higher Education Program is managed and staffed by dedicated professionals who will work tirelessly for the communities they serve. We value your commitment to FEMA's Higher Education Program and the Emergency Management Higher Education community.

Thank you again for your correspondence, and I look forward to working with you on future homeland security issues. Should you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Craig Fugate".

W. Craig Fugate
Administrator