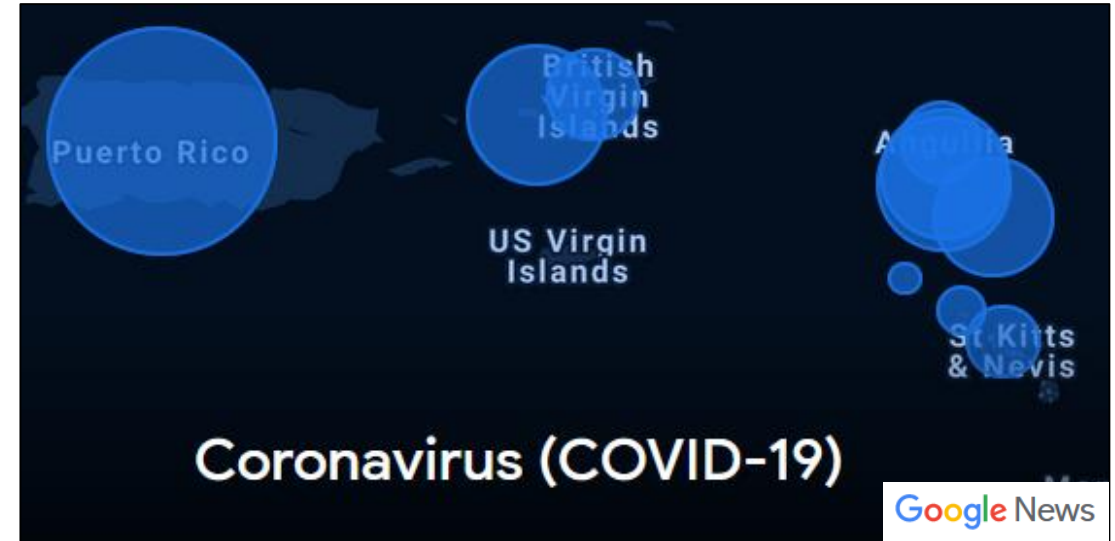
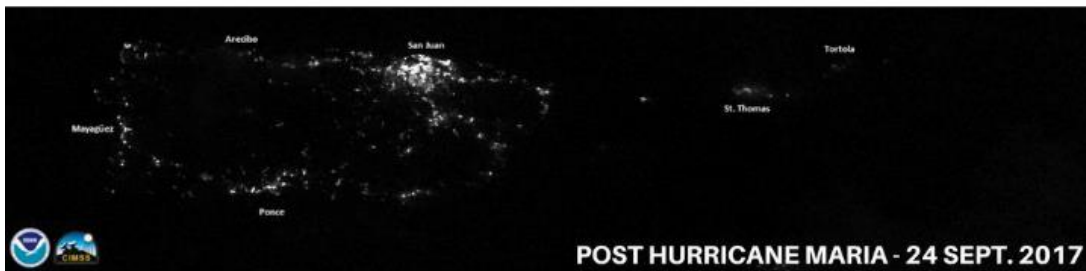
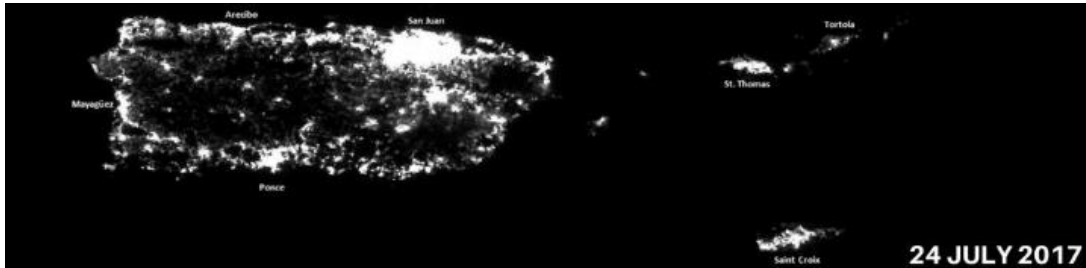


# Supporting Culturally Competent Leaders for a Changing VI: the Resilience Leaders Initiative



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# How severe was 'IrMaria' in the VI?

Irma: September 6, 2017



Maria: September 20, 2017



## Most devastating disasters by percentage job loss\*

1. Katrina, Metro New Orleans: 29.7% job loss
2. Irma & Maria, USVI: 11.7% job loss
3. Hugo, USVI: 9.4%
4. Marilyn, USVI: 6.2%
5. Maria, Puerto Rico: 5.8%

\*US Bureau of Labor Statistics, Haver Analytics, and Moody's Economy.com – as reported in Bram (2018).

Resilience  
Leaders  
Plan  
Year 0 of 5

Strong UVI Graduates:  
Culturally Competent,  
Transdisciplinary, STEM Workforce

Coral Restoration  
Research

Disaster Recovery  
Internship

Human Services  
Internship

Science 100  
Natural World: The Caribbean

Social Science 100  
A Caribbean Focus

# Undergraduate Education Research: Building on IrMaria-Centered Service Learning



## **Service learning is a high-impact, culturally responsive activity:**

- increases course engagement
- builds professional skills:
  - collaboration, creativity, critical thinking, communication
- enhances persistence & retention of students
- addresses community needs and builds future leaders well-equipped to address "wicked problems" in the VI

Francis, G. and Brown, L. (2019). The impacts of Hurricanes Irma and Maria in the Virgin Islands and the recovery process through action in science. Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography (ASLO) Aquatic Sciences Meeting, San Juan, PR. (oral)



# Lessons Learned (8 semesters, ~120 students): One size does not, SHOULD not, fit all UVI students.

## 1. Service Learning



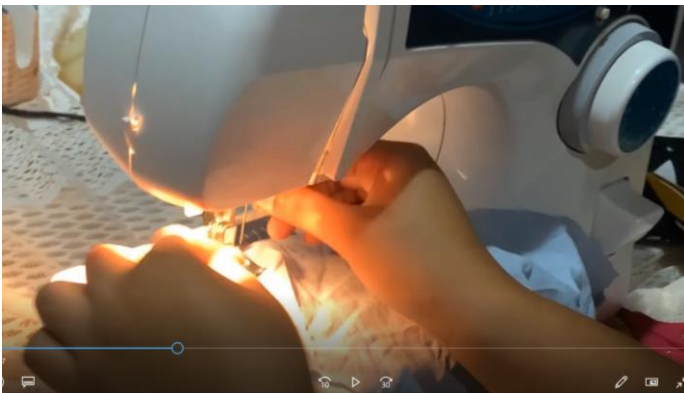
## 2. Community Engagement



## 3. STEM Research Experience



## 4. Independent Project



## 5. Interdisciplinary Research Experience

7. Do you feel your motivation for school has gone down the drain?

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

Resilience  
Leaders  
Initiative  
Year X of 5

Strong UVI Graduates:  
Culturally Competent,  
Transdisciplinary, STEM Workforce

STUDENT  
GOVERNMENT  
ASSOCIATION

Coral Restoration  
Research

Disaster Recovery  
Internship

Human Services  
Internship

Data Science

Education

Psychology

Communication

Science 100  
Natural World: The Caribbean

MATH!

Social Science 100  
A Caribbean Focus

Writing-Intensive  
Courses

# UVI students are already resilience leaders.



*“If there is no transportation to classes, I’ll walk.  
If there is no washing machines, I’ll wash it myself.  
If there is no power I can survive without my phone and  
other technologies.  
If I can survive two category five hurricanes then I can  
survive anything.”*

*- Science 100 student, consented essay excerpt*

Destroyed power pole with VI flag,  
photo of unknown origin.  
Symbol for #VIStrong since  
September 2017