Center for Rebuilding Sustainable Communities after Disasters
John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies
University of Massachusetts Boston, USA

CRSCAD’s Brochure
Center for Rebuilding Sustainable Communities after Disasters

With a focus on vulnerable populations, and in partnership with grassroots, community-based organizations and other stakeholders, the University of Massachusetts Boston’s Center for Rebuilding Sustainable Communities after Disasters (CRSCAD) is dedicated to finding the most effective interdisciplinary approaches to sustainable post-disaster reconstruction.

We provide expertise for sustainable reconstruction after disasters
CRSCAD is the only institution of its kind dedicated to raising awareness and offering expertise in global post-disaster reconstruction with an emphasis on the following areas: the built environment and spatial design (urban planning and architectural design; landscape architecture; environmental justice; and community resilience, to name but a few.)

We promote human dignity and social justice CRSCAD jointly develops comprehensive short-, medium-, and long-term responses to post-disaster conditions with the survivors, their governments, grassroots organizations, and other relevant agencies and stakeholders.

We promote capacity building
CRSCAD offers distinctive graduate and professional development courses through the College of Advancing and Professional Studies. They address the security threats to vulnerable populations after disasters: economic, water, food, health, environmental, personal, community, and political.

CRSCAD is affiliated with the John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies at the University of Massachusetts Boston.
A Letter from
Professor Adenrele Awotona
Director, CRSCAD

Established in 2008, CRSCAD has earned a reputation as a leading force in a field that is gaining momentum. In our inaugural year, we hosted a workshop for the U.S. Department of State with participants from Brazil, Chile, Uruguay, Argentina, and Paraguay. Since then, CRSCAD has organized conferences and presentations on Afghanistan, China, Haiti, Indonesia, Iraq, Japan and New Zealand.

CRSCAD promotes collaborations, education, and knowledge sharing that enhance global post-disaster reconstruction through teaching, consultancy, community outreach, service activities, multidisciplinary and multisectoral research-based information generation, book publications, and national/international conference presentations—including two, in 2014, on multi-hazards and disaster risk reduction at global academic events in South America. CRSCAD’s participation was invited and sponsored by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)/Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance, the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), University of Chile, the Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU), and Centro de Investigacion Vulnerabilidades y Desastres Socionaturales (CIVDES).

I invite you to learn more about the work that CRSCAD does by visiting our website at www.umb.edu/crscad, or by emailing us at crscad@umb.edu.

I thank you.
Adenrele Awotona
Global Post-Disaster Studies at UMass Boston

The Center for Rebuilding Sustainable Communities after Disasters (CRSCAD) offers a number of graduate and professional development courses in Global Post-Disaster Studies with a focus on Planning, Development and Reconstruction with Vulnerable Populations through the College of Advancing and Professional Studies. This is an extension of the work done by CRSCAD and is in response to the strong desire of many governmental and non-governmental agencies as well as other organizations to have access to courses that address the question of what to do AFTER emergency relief leaves the disaster scene. The courses are aligned with the University’s mission to foster studies situated among many disciplines and to advance a productive, equitable and sustainable world.

The courses focus on multidisciplinary contributions with support and teaching from a variety of faculty within several colleges and departments at the University of Massachusetts Boston. They can be taken totally online. Some on-campus courses are available.

Briefly, the courses approach post-disaster reconstruction from multiple perspectives: the social contract and its interaction with those most vulnerable; the effects of climate and population on disasters; disaster relief; disaster-induced migration; human dignity and human rights; and, sustainable food systems. There are strong political, social, community, economic, and management dimensions to the courses which could provide packaged advanced training programs in post-disaster management and practices for the following (amongst others): Professionals in Disaster Relief Agencies, Government Agencies, Non-Profit and For-Profit organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations, Multilateral Agencies, and other similar bodies; Graduates from different academic and professional backgrounds who are interested in planning a career in post-disaster community rebuilding; and, graduate students (in American and overseas universities) who may need some of the courses as electives to fulfill their degree requirements.

### Courses

| CRSCAD 601L | Social Vulnerability Approach to Disasters | 3 credits |
| CRSCAD 602L | Climate Change, Global Food and Water Resources | 3 credits |
| CRSCAD 603L | Reconstruction after the Cameras Have Gone | 3 credits |
| CRSCAD 621L | Human Dignity, Human Rights and Sustainable Post-Disaster Reconstruction | 3 credits |
| CRSCAD 624L | Survival Skills for the 21st Century: Developing Personal, Organizational and Community Resilience | 3 credits |
| CRSCAD 643L | Political Economy of International Migration | 3 credits |
| CRSCAD 522 | Migrants and Refugees | 3 credits |
| CRSCAD 523 | Climate Change: Strategies for Mitigation and Adaptation | 3 credits |
| CRSCAD 526 | Disasters and Public Health | 3 credits |
| CRSCAD 527 | GIS in Emergency and Disaster Management | 3 credits |
| CRSCAD 596 | Independent Study in Global Post-Disasters | 3 credits |
| CRSCAD 597 | Special Topics | 3 credits |

### Course descriptions

**CRSCAD 601L: Social Vulnerability to Disasters**

By means of a multi-disciplinary approach, this course introduces students to an understanding of hazards and disasters grounded in social vulnerability analysis. It examines different theories of social vulnerabilities as well as the historical, geographical, social, and cultural factors and conditions that put people differentially at risk before, during, and after disasters. In particular, the course focuses on global, national, regional, and local patterns of development. Students will explore how vulnerable social groups are affected by and cope with various types of disasters, and strategies for community-based mitigation engaging those most at risk.

**CRSCAD 602L: Climate Change, Global Food and Water Resources**

This course will examine the causes and consequences of climate change with a special focus on food and water resources. We will analyze proposals to prevent and mitigate global warming with both proactive and responsive policies. As a global society, food and water security is the most important goal we face, yet many people in the developing world lack even basic food security and more than a billion people worldwide lack access to safe drinking water. Food and water shortages are exacerbated and caused by climate change, environmental degradation and natural and human-caused disasters. It is projected that unless drastic efforts to cut greenhouse gas emission are implemented global warming will lead to massive crop failures as early as 2040 and become a worldwide phenomenon by 2080. Because poor nations will be most adversely affected by climate change it is incumbent upon the global society to prepare for and avert disaster.

**CRSCAD 603L: Reconstruction after the Cameras Have Gone**

This course introduces the student to the complex process of post-disaster reconstruction and the roles of government, Non-Governmental Organizations, humanitarian and development agencies, multilateral establishments, and the private sector as well as the ways in which they
can all support vulnerable populations during and after disasters. It also examines institutional, regulatory and policy frameworks for implementing reconstruction programs and projects. At the end of the semester, the student submits a research paper on a topic selected by him/her and approved by the instructor.

**CRSCAD 621L: Human Dignity, Human Rights and Sustainable Post-disasters Reconstruction**
Understanding the intersecting dynamics of human dignity, humiliation, and human rights in today’s world is crucial for those working in post-disaster reconstruction. Greater awareness of human rights ideals brings to the forefront the risk that post-disaster strategies and responses, once accepted and considered helpful, are perceived as deeply humiliating. This course will explore how globalization dramatically alters how we engage in helping relationships at all levels. It proposes that post-disaster reconstruction can be an opportunity to implement innovative and sustainable solutions that support the healing, health, and dignity of all involved in post-disaster recovery.

**CRSCAD 624L: Survival Skills for the 21st Century: Developing Personal, Organizational and Community Resilience**
This course will examine resilience and the power to adapt to stress, adversity and trauma. Coping with and managing tragedy and crisis is important to the individual, his/her family and friends, employment and other relationships that are part of our lives.

**CRSCAD 643L: The Political Economy of International Migration**
The aim of the course is to introduce students to the major issues associated with the economic consequences of migration. Students will gain an understanding of the theoretical reasons why people migrate. Many of these reasons are economic, but the resulting dynamic is a lasting relationship between the sending and receiving country. As a result of the development of transnational identities these ties include remittances, political participation, and economic opportunities for both countries.

**CRSCAD 522: Migrants and Refugees**
This course will provide you with a broad overview of challenges faced by migrant and refugee populations that have been displaced by socio-political upheavals and natural disasters. The course will also introduce you to legal and sociological definitions of immigrant and refugee populations and to key issues in recent debates over immigrant and refugee rights in international, European and North American law. One of the goals of this review is to sensitize you to the way that definitions of immigrants and refugees (and definitions of particular categories of refugees) can be influenced by a variety of cultural, political and economic factors.

The class will also explore the conditions that lead people to become displaced. Students will be introduced to the concept of the “stateless population.” We will examine how and why some stateless populations become migrant and refugee populations (and why some do not). We will also explore several different kinds of stateless/displaced migrant and refugee populations including: populations displaced by war and other forms of political turmoil (such as refugees from the US-Iraq war), populations displaced by natural disasters (such as the South Asian tsunami, the Haitian earthquake), populations displaced by changing environmental conditions...
that are being caused by global emissions and consumption patterns (such as climate refugees in South Asia) and populations displaced by dire economic conditions (such as African asylum seekers in Europe).

CRSCAD 523: Climate Change - Strategies for Mitigation and Adaptation
The theme of this course will be to address the two main imperatives in a climatically changed world: avoid conditions that will be unmanageable and manage the changes that will be unavoidable. The course will begin with a historical perspective of the variability in earth’s climate, an explanation of factors affecting climate such as the Greenhouse Effect, and a critique of current evidence indicative of global warming. To avoid catastrophic changes in earth’s future climate, mitigation strategies involving transportation, energy, agriculture, innovative technologies, legislation, cooperation between developing and developed nations, and individual responsibility will be explored. Specific strategies such as smart grid, non-carbon sources of energy, new technologies, carbon sequestration, cap and trade, and lifestyle changes will be investigated. To manage new climate conditions, adaptive measures will be necessary. The course will evaluate adaptive strategies to address rising temperatures, rising sea levels, and shifting rainfall patterns. These strategies include infrastructure modification, coastal fortification, wetlands and coral reef restoration, and the need to develop water tolerant and drought resistant crops. The students will conclude the course with an assessment of their own carbon footprint.

CRSCAD 526 Disasters and Public Health
Hurricanes, earthquakes, tsunamis, pandemic outbreaks of infectious/communicable disease, industrial emergencies, bioterrorism events—whether triggered by Mother Nature or human nature, the incidence of disasters impacting on large populations has increased dramatically throughout the world. The inextricable relationship between public health and disaster occurrence, prevention, response, and recovery is undeniable. This course provides an overview of the phenomena of disasters and their impacts within the public health scope. It will cultivate insight into the pervasive presence of public health in contingencies specific to natural, accidental, and intentional disaster events paying special attention to the epidemiology of events and patterns of events. Students will gain knowledge and insight into the nature and anatomy of disasters. Emphasis will be placed on public health interventions and emergency management strategies with an eye toward transition to long-term sustainable development.

CRSCAD 527: GIS in Emergency and Disaster Management
This course provides an introduction to spatial technologies and desktop GIS software via real-world scenarios and research questions in humanitarian relief, disaster management, international development and environmental issues. In particular, students will learn to analyze, map, and publish spatial information at community, regional and global scales using powerful GIS tools. Students will develop skills in cartography, spatial data management and analysis, collaborative online mapping, manipulation of satellite and aerial imagery as well as toolsets, workflows and strategies common to disaster management and international development fields.

CRSCAD 596: Independent Study in Global Post-Disaster Studies
This guided independent study will allow the student to choose and explore an area of strong interest in global post-disaster studies that is not covered by available courses. Students are
particularly encouraged to research new angles of intersection between vulnerable populations and post-disaster conditions. A detailed proposal must be submitted to, and approved by, the Director of the Center for Rebuilding Sustainable Communities after Disasters. Open to all graduate students.

**CRSCAD 597: Special Topics**
This course offers study of selected topics within this subject. Course content and credits vary according to topic and are announced prior to the registration period.

*CRSCAD’s International Conference on “Rebuilding Sustainable Communities in Afghanistan - The Way Forward,” 2015*
About the University of Massachusetts Boston and CRSCAD

University of Massachusetts Boston
The University of Massachusetts Boston is nationally recognized as a model of excellence for urban public universities. Part of the UMass system, UMass Boston’s academic excellence is reflected by a student body of 16,415 undergraduate and graduate students. In fall 2017, the university’s 11 colleges and schools offered 83 undergraduate programs (bachelor’s degrees, undergraduate certificates, post-baccalaureate certificates) and 130 graduate programs (master’s degrees, doctoral degrees, graduate certificates, CAGS, and post-masters certificates). The Honors College serves 763 students who thrive on intellectual challenge. Enriched courses probe more deeply into theory or venture further into application. UMass Boston’s diverse student body provides a global context for student learning, and its location in a major U.S. city provides connections to employers in industries such as finance, health care, technology, service, and education, offering students opportunities to gain valuable in-school experience via internships, clinicals, and other career-related placements.

The Center for Rebuilding Sustainable Communities after Disasters (CRSCAD)
works in close collaboration with practitioners, academics, researchers, policy makers and grassroots organizations in the United States of America and globally in their search for the most appropriate and sustainable ways to rebuild their communities after disasters. It assists local, national and international agencies as well as the victims of disasters to develop practical and long-term solutions to the social, economic and environmental consequences of disasters. It provides expert advice and training to communities which have been devastated by disasters. It hosts international scholars, for specified periods of time, who wish to work on the problems which they consider essential to the rebuilding of their communities after disasters. It also assists with building local capacity to address the horrendous consequences of the various forms of disaster which millions of people face every year, everywhere. The Center engages in innovative research on various disaster-related topics with a focus on vulnerable populations (differently-abled people, the elderly, children, women, the poor, ethnic and linguistic minorities, etc.)
At the invitation of the United States Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Professor Adenrele Awotona briefed a high-level delegation from Russia’s national emergency management agency, EMERCOM, on the work being done by the center. Led by Minister Shoigu and Deputy Minister Tsailikov, the visit took place in early April 2013 at FEMA Region I headquarters in Boston.

CRSCAD’s International Conference on, “Rebuilding Sustainable Communities after Disasters in China and Japan: Best Practices and Lessons Learned,” 2012
CRSCAD at an international workshop hosted by the University of Salahaddin, Erbil, Kurdistan Region, Iraq, 2011
In order to integrate Disaster Risk Reduction approaches into medical education and practice in the country, the Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Airlangga (FMUA), Surabaya, Indonesia, in collaboration with the Center for Rebuilding Sustainable Communities after Disasters (CRSCAD) organized a very successful 10-day intensive course on Disaster Management. It was hosted by FMUA from June 11 to 21, 2012. The course consisted of interactive lectures, seminars, workshops and plenary discussions which were taught and led by distinguished Indonesian academics and practitioners as well as CRSCAD faculty. Participants comprised medical doctors (practitioners and educators), government officials and other disaster professionals.

CRSCAD’s International Conference on, “Rebuilding Sustainable Communities after Disasters in China and Japan: Best Practices and Lessons Learned,” 2012
CRSCAD’s international Conference on Rebuilding Sustainable Communities with the Elderly and Disabled People after Disasters held at the University of Massachusetts Boston, July 12-15, 2010.
CRSCAD’s 2008 Workshop on Rebuilding Sustainable Communities in Indonesia after the Tsunami
Bottom Right: Chancellor J. Keith Motley with University of As-Syaﬁ’iyah Rector Tutty Alawiyah
CRSCAD’s 2007 International Conference on Rebuilding Sustainable Communities in Iraq

Photo 1: CRSCAD Director Professor Adenrele Awotona with Dr. Rajaa Al-Khuzai, a former member of the Iraqi National Assembly
Photo 2: Chancellor J. Keith Motley, Professor Adenrele Awotona and the Indonesian delegation
Photo 3: A section of conference participants
Photo 4: Dr. Riadh Tappuni, Former Coordinator of the Iraq Task Force and Leader of the Urban Development & Housing Policies Team at the United Nations
Photo 5: Dr. Morad Abou-Sabe’, Former President & Assistant Chancellor, Misr University for Science & Technology, Cairo, Egypt
Photo 6: Dr. Abdul Hadi Al Khalili, a neurosurgeon and the Cultural Attaché of the Iraq Embassy in Washington D.C.
CRSCAD’s April 2010 International Workshop on “After the Cameras have gone – Rebuilding Sustainable Communities in Haiti after the January 12th Earthquake”
CRSCAD’s 2008 International Conference on Rebuilding Sustainable Communities with Children and their families after Disasters

Photo 2: Keynote speaker Professor Kai T. Erikson (left); Photo 3: Keynote speaker Governor Scott McCallum; Photo 4: Professor Russell Schutt (second from left) and other participants; Photo 5: Keynote speaker Mark Sloan; Photo 6: Panelists YinYin Zeng and Beryl Cheal
### Appendix

**Biographical Sketches of CRSCAD’s Faculty**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Adenrele Awotona, Ph.D.</strong></td>
<td>Tenured Professor of Urban Planning and Community Studies</td>
<td>A tenured Professor with a broad international background in architecture, sustainable community development, and post-disaster reconstruction. Founder and director of the Center for Rebuilding Sustainable Communities after Disasters. Principal investigator on major projects funded by various agencies. Experience in research, consultancy, and teaching across various countries. Earned his Doctorate from the University of Cambridge. Former Dean of the College of Public and Community Service at UMass Boston. Professor Awotona has published extensively on disaster risk reduction and reconstruction.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Michael Britton, Ed.D., Ph.D.</strong></td>
<td>Practicing Psychologist and Scholar</td>
<td>Conducted interview research with retired U.S. military commanders/planners who dealt with nuclear weapons during the Cold War, exploring moral responsibilities. Lectured internationally on neuroscience and conflict resolution. Provides training for specialists in neuroscience applications.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Jennifer Janisch Clifford, Ph.D.</strong></td>
<td>Lecturer II in Economics</td>
<td>An environmental and natural resource economist specializing in economic valuation, resource conservation, and incentive instruments. Former economic consultant on water projects, including coastal zone and coral reef protection. Currently, an affiliate instructor at CRSCAD.</td>
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**Phillip Granberry, Ph.D.**, Public Policy, is a Lecturer II in Economics, College of Liberal Arts at the University of Massachusetts Boston. He is a social demographer who specializes in unauthorized immigration. He worked with various community-based organizations assisting recently arrived U.S. immigrants before earning a Ph.D. in 2007. His dissertation, “The Formation and Effects of Social Capital among Mexican Immigrants” examined how unauthorized Mexican immigrants accumulate social capital in the United States, and how it helps explain both their economic and health outcomes. He holds a M.A. in Theology and a M.T.S. in Pastoral Studies from St. Meinrad School of Theology. Currently, he is an affiliate instructor at CRSCAD.

**William G. Hagar, Ph.D.** is an Associate Dean in the College of Science and Mathematics and a tenured professor in the Department of Biology at the University of Massachusetts Boston. His research is centered on an experimental approach to biochemical reactions and environmental perturbations. The biochemical studies involve the use of instrumentation to analyze plant protein complexes. The environmental monitoring work is centered on measuring anthropogenic inputs on water systems, such as acid precipitation on freshwater ponds and pools in Massachusetts. Recently, this has involved the use of stable isotope analysis of organisms in the water systems to determine structure of food webs and possible effects of anthropogenic inputs.

**Linda Hartling, Ph.D.**, who conducted the earliest research assessing the experience of humiliation, is an expert on relational-cultural theory. She is the past Associate Director of the Jean Baker Miller Training Institute at the Wellesley Centers for Women at Wellesley College, Boston, Massachusetts, the largest women’s research center in the United States.

**Philip Kretsedemas**, an Associate Professor in Sociology at UMass Boston, earned his PhD in Sociology from the University of Minnesota in 1997 (and served as a Diamond Postdoctoral Fellow in the Graduate Faculty of the New School for Social Research, 1997-1998). His areas of specialization include democracy and development in the Caribbean, US immigration policy and immigration enforcement and North American (US and Canada) welfare reform outcomes and social service needs for migrant populations. Dr. Kretsedemas has published a number of journal articles on the subject of immigration policy, immigrant racialization and marginality and the social service needs of immigrant populations.
Evelin G. Lindner, MD, PhDs (Dr psychol, Dr med), is the Founding President of the Human Dignity and Humiliation Studies network. She has been nominated three times for the Nobel Peace Prize (2015, 2016 and 2017).

Richard Lumb, Ph.D., is Emeritus from the State University of New York at Brockport where he was Chair of the Department of Criminal Justice. His doctorate is from Florida State University. He completed 24 years at the university level, teaching, conducting research, scholarship, and engaging in community research and projects. His first career included 22 years in policing, including holding the position of Chief of Police in two communities. Currently, he is assisting the University of Maine at Augusta in developing an on-line “Community / Citizen Emergency Preparedness & Resilience” program. Additionally, he is a principal in the “Community Emergency Management Preparedness and Resilience Project” in the Town of Scarborough, Maine. In the past 46 years, he has been involved in a variety of public and private organizations, focused mainly on quality of life issues, improvement of the effectiveness and efficiency of services delivered, and helping people and organizations identify problems and determine sustainable solutions.

Stephen Metts (M.A. Clark University) possesses over twelve years of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and planning experience in both urban and international contexts. He is the founding principal of Geospex, a GIS consultancy specializing in cartographic design, spatial analysis and mapping applications. He has worked with a diverse group of organizations, firms and agencies ranging internationally with Engineers Without Borders and Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, to domestically with New York City’s planning department (NYCDCP) and housing authority (NYCHA). Metts was a founding Co-Director of OnRamp Arts, an award-winning non-profit digital arts organization fostering collaborative projects with underserved communities, architects and artists in Los Angeles. As an adjunct faculty with The University of Massachusetts Boston and The New School, NYC, he teaches a hands-on approach to geospatial technologies for international crisis, development and the environment. He has also taught and developed GIS-related curriculum at Parsons the New School for Design, LaGuardia College and Clark University. In 2016, Metts was a recipient of a Tishman Environment and Design Center (TEDC) faculty grant to develop mobile GIS technologies for volunteer monitoring of fracked gas infrastructure projects occurring throughout the Marcellus Shale Formation, Northeast US. In 2017, Metts has continued to develop this work through the The Fund for Multimedia Documentation of Engaged Learning at The New School, NYC.
**Irwin Silverstein** received his undergraduate degree in Mechanical Engineering from the City College of New York and his Master’s and doctorate in Environmental Engineering from Northeastern University. Prior to working for several environmental consulting firms, he was an instructor in the Civil Engineering Departments at Northeastern and Tufts Universities. He has over 25 years of experience as a professional engineer managing soil and groundwater investigations and remediation at sites impacted by commercial and industrial activities. Recently, he completed a two-year fellowship working for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as an American Association for the Advancement of Science & Technology Policy Fellow. His work at EPA’s Water Security Division and National Homeland Security Research Center helped to evaluate how security for the water sector might be improved by implementing strategies like backflow prevention and point-of-use/point-of-entry treatment.

**Ulrich (Uli) Spalthoff (Dr. rer. nat.)** Director of Media Development for Human Dignity and Humiliation Studies. Former Director of Advanced Technologies at Alcatel-Lucent in Germany and France. As Director of Advanced Technologies, his leadership included mentoring start-ups and consulting high-tech companies in IT, telecommunication and semiconductor industries from countries all over the world.

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**Contact us**

For more information on CRSCAD, please visit: [http://www.umb.edu/crscad](http://www.umb.edu/crscad)

OR

Healey Library, 10th Floor, Room 01

E-mail: crscad@umb.edu
Center for Rebuilding Sustainable Communities after Disasters (CRSCAD)
University of Massachusetts Boston, USA

Mission
The primary purpose of the Center for Rebuilding Sustainable Communities after Disasters (CRSCAD) is to work in close collaboration with practitioners, academics, researchers, policy makers and grassroots organizations in the United States of America and in all the continents of the world in their search for the most appropriate and sustainable ways to rebuild their communities after disasters. Examples of disasters are framed by bad governance and poverty, environmental pollution, HIV/AIDS, wars, conflicts, severe weather-related events, earthquakes, large-scale attacks on civilian populations, technological catastrophes, and influenza pandemics. Scholarship, service, consultancy, workshops and training, outreach and education as well as creative work are key components of CRSCAD’s mission.

We will accomplish our mission by
- Engaging in multidisciplinary and cross disciplinary research activities
- Promoting bottom-up community participatory approach as a means to improve top-down national policy and program design and implementation
- Organizing and hosting seminars, workshops and conferences on various aspects of post-disaster reconstruction in partnership with public and private sector agencies in all the continents of the world
- Assisting local, national and international agencies as well as the victims of disasters to develop practical, sustainable and long-term solutions to the social, economic and environmental consequences of disasters
- Providing expert advice and training to communities which have been devastated by disasters
- Hosting international scholars, for specified periods of time, who wish to work on the problems which they consider essential to the rebuilding of their communities after disasters
- Assisting in building local capacity in the field of post-disaster reconstruction as well as in technology transfer
- Building strategic partnerships with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), Grassroots organizations, local and international research centers, among others.
- Gender issues in disaster research, planning and practice

Vision
CRSCAD seeks to be recognized as one of the leading academic centers in the global community addressing the issue of the creation of safe communities for vulnerable populations after disasters, specifically children, women, the elderly, people with disabilities, national minorities and the poor. It is a dynamic educational unit that cultivates alliances with local, national and international agencies, government and academic institutions, NGOs, as well as with for-profit and not-for-profit bodies which share common interests in the area of post-disaster reconstruction globally.

For additional information, please kindly visit:
http://www.umb.edu/crscad