

Country Focus:  
United States

On **June 24 & 25**, a group of secondary teachers from Miami-Dade County Public Schools participated in a workshop presented by **Florida International University (FIU) - Extreme Events Institute (USA)** to learn about hurricane science, mitigation and the NSF-NHERI Wall of Wind at FIU.

Led by ITEN Project Team members **Erik Salna** and **Lacey Simpson**, the workshop included materials inspired by the institute's ITEN Project Team collaborations with **Iowa State University, Fairfax County Public Schools**, and the **Jamaica Ministry of Education, Youth and Information**. Funding for the event came from an **ITEN Seed Grant**.



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teachers benefitted from the workshop.

Workshop content included the presentation of hurricane science content through the use of the Science Writing Heuristic (SWH) teaching approach introduced to the team by **Lynne Campbell** at Iowa State University.

Hands-on activities during the workshop included the building of model homes, which were wind tested for their strength and resilience (right).



## Hurricane Education

Hurricanes are a shared point of concern from ITEN Project Team members from both the southeastern coast of the U.S. and Jamaica.

Educational modules developed at FIU for secondary school cover the science behind hurricanes as well as emergency preparedness.

Click below to access FIU's free resources for educators.



## Science Writing Heuristic

The hurricane education materials have been enhanced through the ITEN Project Team collaboration that now includes the use of the Science Writing Heuristic (SWH).

Developed at Iowa State University, SWH is a pedagogical approach that encourages students to think—and communicate—like scientists by formulating evidence-based claims.

Click below to learn more about SWT.



As Associate Director for Education and Outreach, Salna hosts the annual Wall of Wind Mitigation Challenge for students as well.

Learn more!



## Wall of Wind Mitigation Challenge

### Wall of Wind Mitigation Challenge Overview:

The International Hurricane Research Center (IHRC), located on the campus of Florida International University (FIU), has developed the Wall of Wind Mitigation Challenge (WOW! Challenge) for South Florida high school students. This community education outreach project is graciously supported in large part through a grant from the Florida Division of Emergency Management.

The NHERI Wall of Wind (WOW) Experimental Facility (EF) located at FIU's College of Engineering and Computing was funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) to be a national facility that enables researchers to better understand wind effects on civil infrastructure systems and to prevent wind hazards from becoming community disasters. The WOW is the largest and most powerful university research facility of its kind and is capable of simulating a Category 5 hurricane with winds over 157 mph. Essentially, it is an array of 12 very large electric fan motors that are used to test structures, materials and products and their ability to withstand hurricane force winds.

To learn more about the NSF-NHERI Wall of Wind, please visit: <https://fiu.designsafe-ci.org/>

