



2013 HAWAII UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES
EDUCATION & TECHNOLOGY
MATH & ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY
JUNE 10TH TO JUNE 12TH
ALA MOANA HOTEL, HONOLULU, HAWAII

IMPORTANCE OF INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAM

LAIJU, MEHERUN

INDIANA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY IN MARION

Title: Importance of Interdisciplinary Program

Meherun Laiju, Ph.D.

The purpose of this paper is to discuss how an academic institution may benefit by creating an interdisciplinary curriculum and why it is helpful for students. It will discuss about the Interdisciplinary minor created within the existing Social Science Division curriculum in a four year college. This interdisciplinary minor includes curricula that offer a fundamental understanding from a social science perspective about the nature of natural hazards and disasters in the coastal zone, social aspects of catastrophes/disasters, and organizational issues inherent in disaster preparedness, planning and response. The focus of the interdisciplinary minor program is to strengthen the student's careers in public safety, emergency managements, community and research planning, and public policy making. Furthermore, the program allowed participating faculty members to engage in cross- disciplinary research and academic programs to prepare students to meet the workforce demand for emergency preparedness agencies, organizations, and also for advanced study in the field.