

For immediate release.

Program prepares college students to deal with disasters, terrorism

Lisle, Illinois ~ Nearly two dozen Benedictine University students will participate in an intensive, three-day training program to learn about dealing with disasters and terrorism.

The Campus Community Emergency Response Team (C-CERT) program is designed to prepare students to help themselves, their family, friends and neighbors in the event of a disaster. Students can save lives and protect property when emergency personnel are unable to provide immediate help.

The training covers basic skills that are important to know in a disaster including emergency preparedness, fire safety, emergency medical operations and disaster psychology. The training will also allow the students to provide critical support to first responders at a disaster site.

The program runs from 8:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m. on Friday, August 19 through Sunday, August 21 in the Krasa Student Center.

Among the students participating in the training are: Victoria Canaday Howard (Downers Grove); Kelly Kastner (Woodridge); Fatima S. Ansari (Glendale Heights); Mohsina Anwar (Bolingbrook); Junzi Hou (Naperville); Samad Faheem (Elizabethtown, Ky.); and Stephanie Lindgren (Lisle).

“The C-CERT training will provide Benedictine students with the knowledge, skills and abilities to assist with immediate response support and recovery in the event of an emergency or disaster that may threaten the campus or local community,” said Sandra Ellis, Ph.D. an education adjunct at the National Emergency Response and Rescue Training Center at Texas A&M University.

“Students can make a vital difference by using this training to save lives and protect property on campus and at home,” she added. “Campus CERT educates students about disaster preparedness and trains them in basic skills such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization and disaster medial operations.”

Funding for the program is provided by the Illinois Terrorism Task Force, and the training is facilitated by the Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System (ILEAS).

“The Benedictine community will benefit from having the additional trained response personnel, while the students will learn valuable lifelong skills that they can apply to everyday life,” said Michi Dubes, Emergency Preparedness Manager at Benedictine University.

###