

DRLA Conference – Welcome Remarks (1:45 – 2 min)

Hello, I'm Suzy Davies, Interim Dean of Tulane School of Social Work.

Let me extend a heartfelt welcome to each of you! We at Tulane School of Social Work are excited you are here and proud to host this panel on Equitable Resilience and Social Vulnerability in collaboration with Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA.

It's fitting that a panel covering topics like disaster preparedness and mitigation, community building, and human resilience would happen here at this school given we house a Disaster Resilience Leadership Academy. Rather than simply respond to a crisis when it occurs, we seek to build infrastructure within communities that allows them to reduce the impact of a disaster. Our first-of-its-kind degree is the only academic program in the country that focuses on FEMA's National Disaster Response Framework, making our graduates extraordinary candidates for a career in emergency and disaster management, relief, and preparedness field.

I'd like to give special recognition to Dr. Reggie Ferreira. Reggie is renowned for his extensive work in the fields of resilience, disaster management, and social work. Currently a Full Professor here, he has dedicated his career to understanding and improving the resilience of communities facing disasters, climate change, and other adversities. As Director of Tulane's Disaster Resilience Leadership Academy (DRLA), his research often intersects with issues of equitable resilience, emphasizing the need to support vulnerable populations disproportionately affected by climate and disasters. I want to thank him for his efforts within DRLA as well as everything that went into putting this panel together.

We hope that you'll enjoy your time with us this week and are thrilled to serve as your host. May your time spent with us be fruitful, fulfilling and educational. Roll Wave!