**Citizen Science GIS Community Scholar Summer Research Experience in Hopkins Village, Belize**

**Dates:** June 12 to July 27, 2023: virtual in US and then in person in Hopkins Village.

The mission of Citizen Science GIS at University of Central Florida is to make science more accessible and understandable by cultivating geospatial technology partnerships between communities and scientists across the globe.

We are looking forward to hosting a group of 2 outstanding undergraduate students from University of Belize in summer 2023. Citizen Science GIS emphasizes engaged, community-based research while also preparing students for future academic and non-academic careers in GIS, geospatial technologies, geography, sociology, geosciences, natural resource management, education, community development, public health, and land use planning.

**To Apply:**

Please send a 1 page letter of interest explaining why you want to be part of our community-based research team along with the names and contact information for 1 professional reference to Dr. Timothy L. Hawthorne, University of Central Florida Associate Professor of Geographic Information Systems at timothy.hawthorne@ucf.edu no later than February 10, 2023. This is our priority deadline, but the positions will remain open until filled. You can learn more about the research at: <https://www.citizensciencegis.org/research-directions>.

**Summary of Research Responsibilities:**

Selected students will collaboratewith our team of U.S. faculty and student researchers in 1 of 2 research directions.

Research Direction 1: Leveraging community geography and GIS to map disparities in flooding.

Research Direction 2: Leveraging community geography and GIS to reduce waster and prevent marine debris.

Learn more about both research directions at: <https://www.citizensciencegis.org/research-directions>

**Specific Responsibilities:**

* Student mastery of geospatial STEM research skills will be accomplished largely through students creating an open and freely available geospatial data infrastructure to address social and environmental disparities related to marine debris, coastal/island resiliency, and flooding/disaster management in Belize. This objective will include the creation of an online, interactive geospatial data and mapping portal through ArcGIS Online.
* Students will also work closely with Hopkins Village community partners to map their local knowledge about the research issues. This will be accomplished with field data collection methods, including interviews, focus groups, sketch mapping, drones, and/or ArcGIS Collector/Survey123 applications.
* Students will also co-lead educational outreach activities focused on GIS and drones with Hopkins Village youth.

**Knowledge and Skills Desired:** We want to work with students who possess some of the following traits:

* a passion for community-based research and education
* a desire to engage in a life-changing international field research and educational experience
* a strong and creative work ethic
* a willingness to challenge yourself, while having fun, and being committed to collaborative learning
* an interest in living in Belize for the majority of the summer
* a desire to learn more about all aspects of research
* a willingness to step outside of your comfort zone, learn about yourself, and challenge your world views
* a desire to work with youth in education and outreach activities
* previous GIS and fieldwork experiences are not required

Learn more from Dr. Timothy L. Hawthorne, Associate Professor of GIS at University of Central Florida



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