



***"I am very proud of the partnership with the University created during the preparation and execution of this workshop and look forward to increasing this important collaboration to help train and prepare future emergency managers. It is exciting to provide students in this important field with real-world technology."***

**- Heidi Hessler**  
CEO, Futurity IT, Inc.

**Orion Disaster Planning &  
Damage Assessment**

[futuraityit.com](http://futuraityit.com)



## **Futurity Collaboration with SUNY Benefits Students and Future Emergency Managers**

### **BACKGROUND**

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Futurity IT prioritizes education and training for both its customers and those entering the field of public safety. In recognition of the need for cutting-edge industry specific software to train the future leaders, Futurity IT began a partnership with the University at Albany - SUNY National Center for Security and Preparedness. Futurity's goal is to provide its cutting-edge Orion technology for research and educational purposes to play its part in preparing students with real-world technology.

### **APPROACH**

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To kick off this collaboration, Orion was utilized during a summer Preparedness Workshop centered around "Severe Weather Decision-Making." As part of the National Science Foundation's U.S. Taiwan Partnership for International Research and Education (PIRE) project, the goal of the workshop was to enhance the use of risk-based data and visualizations to inform crisis decision-making. The Orion Software Solution is ideally situated to assist in training because it provides emergency managers nationwide with easy-to-use tools to gain real-time situational awareness for disaster planning, mitigation and recovery.

### **RESULT**

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Students were asked to step into the shoes of an emergency manager preparing for a major hurricane targeting the east coast of the US and allocate resources to regions based on the weather data and facts provided. Students were able to compare their decision making with the actual outcome of the described event, which was revealed later as Hurricane Florence. Utilizing Orion, students then viewed the real GIS and impact data captured during Hurricane Florence. The Orion Solution was a key technology utilized during the workshop and enabled students to better understand the real impact on communities in the aftermath of a hurricane.