

# Temple's Response to Natural Disasters

*On October 7, 2017, a collection of Temple faculty members sent the following letter to President Englert, Provost Epps, and the Board of Trustees.*

Respected President Englert, Provost Epps, and Members of the Board of Trustees,

Recent natural disasters have impacted our Temple University students, staff, faculty and their families.

The scope and scale of the humanitarian disaster continues to increase and as we learn more about the impact on our community due to these disasters, we are compelled to ask what we can do to help ease the suffering and challenges caused by these natural disasters.

Our students, faculty, and staff with family connections in Puerto Rico are particularly devastated by the unfolding impact of Hurricane Maria.

In addition to expressing concern and support for the members of the communities impacted, some US universities, such as The University of Central Florida, are allowing students who are residents of Puerto Rico, one of the regions most affected, to qualify for in-state tuition:

<http://today.ucf.edu/ucf-provides-state-tuition-rate-puerto-rican-students-displaced-hurricane-maria/>

We ask that Temple University's administration:

- a) issue a statement of concern and support to students, staff and faculty affected.
- b) outline the resources available to students, staff and faculty affected.
- c) provide in state tuition to students impacted
- d) launch a campaign to augment the student emergency fund

These are opportunities for Temple University to be a leader and innovator and to show compassion to those in our community impacted by the devastation of these natural disasters.

We ask you, and Board of Trustees to act swiftly to moderate the hardships caused to our community by these disasters.

Respectfully,

Eric Borguet, College of Science and Technology

Adil Khan, Lewis Katz School of Medicine

Meixia Ding, College of Education

Hiram Aldarondo, College of Liberal Arts

Andreas Delfs, Boyer College of Music and Dance

Ben Altschuler, School of Sport, Tourism and Hospitality Management

Mary Conran, Fox School of Business and Management

Elvis Wagner, College of Education

Xuebin Qin, Lewis Katz School of Medicine

Srimati Mukherjee, College of Liberal Arts

Alistair Howard, College of Liberal Arts and Temple University, Japan Campus