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#### **And the creek don't rise: Disasters, Climate, and Resiliency in Appalachia**

Extreme precipitation, frequent weather events, and critical infrastructure failures are immediate and significant threats that Appalachia faces as the environment changes. Limited institutional capacity, scarce financial resources, and high vulnerability worsen the impacts of disasters like flooding and landslides. The consequences of rising and more intense disasters will severely affect communities and cultures throughout Appalachia. The poster will share the goals and objectives of the Kentucky National Science Foundation Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) Climate Resilience Through Multidisciplinary Big Data Learning Prediction and Building (CLIMBS) specifically related to Project 6: Quantify Community Resilience. CLIMBS Project 6 aims to build and expand stakeholder engagement, deepen community and university communication, and facilitate strong partnerships through reciprocity. Appalachia, specifically Eastern Kentucky's demographic and geographic characteristics as a mountain region, can foster community resilience to climate sensitivity and environmental changes. Integrating research at the initial stages to engage with the emergency management community, hold space for collaboration, and foster avenues for feedback will further inform the research team,

especially in the dynamic, fast-paced, and changing disasterscape we are experiencing presently.

**Presentation Theme:** Disaster and Community Resiliency: Engaging the community in research to inform practitioners and policy (Research and emergency management).

**Collaborators, Advisor(s) and Department(s) that assisted with this research:** Dr. Crystal Felima - PI and Faculty Advisor - Department of Anthropology.