

## FIU-IHRC Joined NOAA's Hurricane Hunter Awareness Tour

**MIAMI (May 8, 2015)**- [Florida International University's \(FIU\) International Hurricane Research Center \(IHRC\)](#) participated with [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Hurricane Center \(NHC\)](#) on the 2015 East Coast Hurricane Hunter Awareness Tour.

Erik Salna, Associate Director of the International Hurricane Research Center in FIU's Extreme Events Institute, was invited aboard the U.S. Air Force Reserve WC-130J hurricane hunter aircraft and the NOAA G-IV aircraft this week for multiple "Hurricane Hunter Awareness" stops along the U.S. East Coast, where he shared information and news about FIU's hurricane research with public officials, scientists, school groups, and community leaders. Mr. Salna joined Dr. Rick Knabb, Director of NOAA's National Hurricane Center, and his team in Atlantic City and made stops in five cities in five days. Stops during the week included Atlantic City, New Jersey; Norfolk, Virginia; Myrtle Beach, South Carolina; St. Augustine, Florida; and Marathon, Florida.

Mr. Salna observed, "Local interest in hurricanes along the U.S. East Coast has increased dramatically as a result of 2012's Superstorm Sandy, particularly about storm surge and the dangers it poses to both life and property in coastal areas."

Dr. Knabb appreciated FIU allowing Mr. Salna to join the NHC team, saying that "Erik is an experienced meteorologist and very accomplished in education and outreach programming. Our team works closely with FIU on several projects. This is just one."

Dr. Richard Olson, Director of FIU's Extreme Events Institute and its International Hurricane Research Center, said that "The NHC is an operational agency, and FIU can help with research, education, and engagement programs; we're a natural complement. And being on the same campus is a tremendous advantage."



*C-130 Hurricane Hunter*



*Erik Salna & Dr. Rick Knabb*



*School kids touring C-130.*



*School kids touring G-IV jet.*