

Alfred University offers help to students displaced by Katrina

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Alfred University is prepared to assist students whose colleges or universities have been closed indefinitely by the effects of Hurricane Katrina. Estimates are that more than 75,000 students attending schools in Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi may have been displaced by the storm that ravaged the Gulf Coast earlier this week. "Alfred University has established an immediate response for area students who attend colleges that have been closed by Hurricane Katrina and want to attend courses this fall without further delay, said Wendy Beckemeyer, vice president for Enrollment Management at AU. "Alfred University will waive its application and late registration fees for students, work to place these students in classes that will transfer to their home colleges and possibly provide some scholarship aid to students in need." "We want to partner with area students and their parents to provide temporary relief from this devastating experience due to the destruction caused by Hurricane Katrina," said Dr. Charles M. Edmondson, president of Alfred University. Students interested are being asked to contact Mandy Hansen, associate director of Admissions, at 607.871.2115. While Alfred University does not have any current students enrolled from the areas affected by the hurricane, those who may have families or friends are asked to contact AU's Counseling and Student Development Center. Students who have expressed an interest in helping the victims of the flooding are being urged to donate, either individually or as members of a group, to the American Red Cross, which is providing food, shelter and other essentials to the victims. Dan Napolitano, director of Student Activities, said this afternoon he is not aware, yet, of any specific fund-raisers that are being planned, but he knows many groups are scheduling meetings and anticipates that several will be undertaking such efforts. Mark Shardlow, executive director of Alumni and Community Relations, said he attempted to contact by e-mail as many alumni as possible who lived in the area affected by the hurricane. "The thoughts and prayers of the Alfred University family are with our alumni whose lives have been devastated by Hurricane Katrina," said Shardlow. "I have already received some responses, that range from a simple thank you for the thoughts, to a one from a young alumnus who wrote, 'My residence and my livelihood are gone.'" The young alumnus is now stranded in Syracuse, NY, looking for a job and a place to live.