



Meet Rouzbeh Nazari

Rouzbeh Nazari, PhD

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Rouzbeh Nazari is an Associate Professor and Director of the Sustainable Smart Cities Research Center (SSCR) with a dual appointment in the Department of Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering and School of Public Health at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Dr. Nazari is a pioneer in damage and resiliency assessment of urban coastal infrastructures and community vulnerability to natural disasters. He has played a significant role in New York and New Jersey resiliency planning, working with over 35 coastal towns and developing community-based solutions that led to the creation of NJFloodAlert.com.

In addition to his academic pursuits, Dr. Nazari is the founder and CEO of two technology startups: Planetary Resilience, funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) funded startup based on Dr. Nazari's patented work and provides the first high-resolution asset-based resiliency decision-making system; and CanAiry, also funded by NSF, which is an innovative real-time environmental exposure and respiratory health assessment, connecting environment, Patients and Health Care Providers. Dr. Nazari has received over \$19,000,000 in federal, state, and industry funding for his research, supported by prestigious organizations such as the National Science Foundation, USDA, EPA, FEMA, NJDCA, NJDEP, DOT, and American Water. His groundbreaking work has been featured on TV and in major newspapers, including CBS, ABC, NBC, FOX, PIX11 news, NJTV, WBHM, US Guardian, Philadelphia Inquirer, New Jersey Business, and Press of Atlantic City. In addition to his research, Dr. Nazari has published several book chapters and journal papers and has presented his work at national and international conferences.

“How do you plan on advancing UCOWR’s mission of leading in education, research and public service in water resources?”

As a prospective member of the Board of Directors for The Universities Council on Water Resources (UCOWR), I am committed to advancing UCOWR's mission of leading in education, research, and public service in water resources through several key strategies. Firstly, I aim to leverage my experience and expertise in water resources research and education as the Sustainable Smart Cities Research Center (SSCRC) director to contribute innovative ideas and initiatives that enhance UCOWR's programs. This includes developing interdisciplinary learning experiences and fostering collaboration between member institutions to address current water resource challenges. Secondly, I will actively support and advocate for research initiatives within UCOWR, encouraging collaboration and knowledge-sharing among member institutions. By facilitating partnerships and providing resources for cutting-edge research projects, we can address critical

water resource issues and advance knowledge in the field. Furthermore, I am committed to promoting UCOWR's public service initiatives, advocating for translating research findings into actionable policies and practices that benefit communities and stakeholders. This includes engaging with policymakers, industry leaders, and the public to raise awareness of water resource issues and promote sustainable management practices. My goal is to work collaboratively with fellow board members and stakeholders to expand UCOWR's capacity to address current water resource challenges, foster leadership in the field, and develop interdisciplinary collaborations that drive positive change in water resources education, research, and public service.