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Climate changes

My name is Christine Fuentes and I work at the Interamerican University of Puerto Rico, Aguadilla campus. I am a teacher in a federal program called Upward Bound Math and Science which is part of the TRIO federal programs of the department of education of the USA . This program works with high school students that are interested in pursuing studies in math or science. The Interamerican University is an Ecumenic Christian university dedicated to uniting academic excellence with leadership and service to society. The UIPR is a private institution composed of eleven campuses across Puerto Rico. The system also has three professional schools: the School of Optometry, the Interamerican University of Puerto Rico School of Law, and The School of Aeronautics.

As we all know climate is the long-term pattern of weather in a particular area and it is changing. My interest of teaching my students about climate is based on these changes. They need to understand that most of these changes are a consequence of our action.

My target group is Spanish speaking twelfth grade students, because of this I will concentrate in the translation of the units of interest and the adaptation of the material to the academic level. I'm planning to use the simulations in the computer lab under direct supervision. Among the activities that we are going to have there is a field trip to SNM of Puerto Rico, lab activities, and student research. This course will be taught during the next two semesters.

At the present I am teaching the course using different teaching techniques to improve the students' knowledge. Among the techniques that I have used with students are laboratories focused on climate, solar radiation and temperature among other; also they have created instruments like barometer and spectrometer to use in the investigations.

Students have shown a genuine interest in climate changes on the planet and how they affect everyone; they have done research on the different ecosystems to see how they are being affected. Designing strategies to bring a positive message about the preservation of the planet and raise awareness among students is our goal