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## **SUNY New Paltz part of collaborative effort in Haiti**

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NEW PALTZ, N.Y. >> The State University of New York has announced a statewide collaboration involving SUNY New Paltz, nine other SUNY campuses and five not-for-profit organizations to establish a sustainable village and learning community in Akayè, Haiti.

New Paltz students, faculty and staff from the college's Institute for Disaster Mental Health will travel to Haiti as a contributing partner to the social services sector of the project, which is now in its planning phase. Institute director Amy Nitza, along with three colleagues from SUNY Buffalo, traveled to Haiti on Saturday for a week-long visit to conduct a needs assessment in the targeted community. They will go on to work with SUNY and local Haitian partners to develop a proposal for social service development in Akayè.

The program proposal will include direct service delivery for children and families, training for teachers, parents and community leaders in addressing the psychosocial needs of children and service-learning and exchange opportunities for SUNY students and faculty. For more information, visit <https://goo.gl/A3dZ5h>.

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