Mission: To improve the nation’s preparedness and ability to respond to disasters, specifically focusing on medical and public health preparedness strategies, response capabilities, and surge capacity.

Quick Facts
- Led by Johns Hopkins University
- Develops Web-based applications to help hospitals, emergency planners, and first responders plan for disasters and flu outbreaks
- Cultivates student expertise in the science of disaster medicine and disaster preparedness
- Committed to developing a future diverse workforce through an undergraduate research training program specifically for underserved tribal colleges and universities

Partners
- Directly partners with universities, Minority Serving Institutions, federal agencies, professional associations, and nonprofit organizations

Background
- Established in 2005 as a Department of Homeland Science and Technology Security Center of Excellence, PACER was tasked with conducting research and education in preparedness and response.

Key Accomplishments
- PACER launched the Disaster Planning App Suite in January 2014. The App Suite received more than 200 downloads in the first week.
- Maryland’s Baltimore school system uses the PACER-developed 1-2-3 Get Ready guide for teachers and parents to help them teach children how to prepare for emergencies. Visit the PACER website to obtain a free copy of the guide.
- PACER’s Emergency Preparedness Toolkit for Primary Care Providers (PCPs) improves PCP readiness for emergencies and disasters and helps communities in the aftermath of an event.
- The Electronic Mass Casualty Assessment and Planning Scenarios (EMCAPS) 1.0 has been available for download since 2010. EMCAPS 1.0 has been shared with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region 1 emergency coordination staff, hospital preparedness staff, the University of Texas Emergency Management Program, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response. FEMA is piloting the EMCAPS 2.0 model.
**PACER Highlights**

**Disaster Planning App Suite**

PACER researchers developed a suite of applications to help local, state, and national emergency planners; hospital emergency officials; emergency physicians; and disaster responders prepare and plan for disasters and flu outbreaks. The App Suite is a free Web-based tool set that includes three apps:

- **The EMCAPS 2.0** is a simulation model to help planners understand and assess preparedness and response needs under a variety of natural and man-made threats, including chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosives-related threats and pandemics.

- **FluCast** is a forecasting model that leverages EMCAPS 2.0 to help hospitals anticipate, plan for, and respond to a significant increase in seasonal and pandemic influenza patients that may affect a hospital's ability and capacity to provide medical care. FluCast can automatically interface with Google Flu Trends to provide city-level influenza data and indicate if a surge in patients is impending.

- **Surge** is a tool to analyze hospital resources, reveal the baseline surge capacity of an institution, and determine the impact of surge responses. Medical or public health officials can input basic resource information into the tool, such as hospital beds and other equipment, and plan for patient movement to open beds or discharge in order to provide care to the most critical patients in a disaster.

**Society for Disaster Medicine and Public Health**

PACER created the Society for Disaster Medicine and Public Health (http://sdmph.org/) to advance and promote excellence in education, training, and research in disaster medicine and public health for all potential health system responders. The Society is inclusive of all fields related to disaster health, including medicine, public health, nursing, emergency medical services, and first responders. It aims to serve and promote these fields as well as offer opportunities for education and training. The Society publishes the *Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness* journal quarterly. During its inaugural meeting in December 2013, criteria for publications were established and the February 2014 issue of the journal will be dedicated to the Society.

**Tribal Colleges and Universities Research Scholars Program**

In its commitment to invest in the training of a future diverse workforce, PACER has developed the Tribal Colleges and Universities Research Scholars Program for students from underserved tribal colleges and universities. Approximately 15 students have participated in this program since 2011 studying a range of topics, including emergency response planning, capacity building, and drill planning. PACER partners with the American Indian Higher Education Consortium, the National Congress of American Indians, and the National Native American Law Enforcement Association to identify specific areas of homeland security education needs. Students in the program develop projects to foster the preparedness environment in their home community. They also work with mentors from PACER leadership and their local community.