

# **Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi**

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## **Cifuentes to Lead Research and Graduate Studies At Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi**

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – Dr. Luis A. Cifuentes has been named associate vice president for research and dean of graduate studies at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. He will assume his duties on Sept. 1, pending approval of The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents.

Cifuentes has been a scientist and faculty member in the Department of Oceanography at Texas A&M University for more than 20 years. He has been with the College of Geosciences administration since January 2003 and served in several positions, most recently as the College’s executive associate dean and associate dean for research.

“Dr. Cifuentes’ many years as a professor, scientist and administrator will serve Texas A&M-Corpus Christi well as we solidify our position as a state-wide leader in undergraduate and graduate research, and research-based education,” said University President Flavius Killebrew. “While at Texas A&M, he played a significant role in developing the University’s successful academic master plan and his wealth of experience and organizational skills will be invaluable as we take our already outstanding university to the next level.”

Born in Quito, Ecuador, Cifuentes moved with his family to Washington, D.C. at age 10. He attended Swarthmore College where he majored in chemistry and received his Bachelor of Arts with Honors in 1978. He earned his Master of Science in Marine Studies from the University of Delaware in 1982 and, five years later, his Ph.D. in Oceanography.

“I am delighted with the opportunity to work with President Killebrew and his leadership team,” said Cifuentes. “My two main goals will be to direct Texas A&M Corpus Christi toward

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emerging research institution status, and to increase the number and impact of its graduate programs. As you can imagine, I have spoken with many colleagues and friends over the past 24 hours. Each and every one of them who knows or has been to Texas A&M-Corpus Christi has a story about the wonderful things taking place at this institution. This is quite exciting.”

In his position, Cifuentes will report to the provost and vice president for Academic Affairs and serve on the Provost’s Council and the College Deans’ Council. He will also chair the Research and Scholarly Activity Council and be a member the Graduate Council. Dr. Cifuentes’ will lead both the research office with its responsibilities for research development, research administration, and research compliance as well as the office of graduate studies with its responsibilities for supporting and growing graduate programs.

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