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Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies Receives NOAA Grant to Help Train New Generation of Scientists

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – The Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies (HRI) at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has received a five-year \$2.17 million grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to train under-represented groups in NOAA-related sciences.

The grant, which is part of the \$15 million “A Regional Ecosystem Approach for the Conservation and the Sustainable Management of Coastal and Marine Resources” grant awarded to Florida A&M University, will provide the HRI with \$433,000 a year for research and post-graduate fellowships. The HRI is co-principal investigator with Florida A&M for the grant. Other partner universities are the University of Texas-Brownsville, Delaware State, Jackson State, and Creighton University.

According to Dr. Wes Tunnell, HRI associate director, Regent’s Professor, Fulbright Scholar, and lead co-principal investigator, a strong component and focus of the funding will be coastal and marine spatial planning. The research and ecosystem studies also include strong links with three National Estuarine Research Reserves (Grand Bay, Apalachicola, and Mission-Aransas), the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary, the Gulf of Mexico Alliance, and the Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observation System.

“This is yet another example of the HRI and Texas A&M-Corpus Christi building capacity in marine science research,” said Tunnell. “It allows us to better serve and train our top students doing research in the NOAA-related science fields, and it allows us to be involved in training the next generation of scientists to sustain and conserve the Gulf of Mexico, which is our mission at the HRI.”

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