

RESTORE Act Center of Excellence for Louisiana (LA-COE) Quarterly Newsletter



JANUARY 2023

Updates from LA-COE

Farewell to Melissa Baustian

Melissa Baustian, Ph.D., Director of LA-COE since 2018 and Deputy Director from 2017 to 2018, has stepped down and has started in a new position for the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) as a research scientist.

LA-COE thanks Baustian for her leadership and dedication to The Water Institute and LA-COE. The organization cannot wait to see what she accomplishes in her future endeavors with the USGS!



Jessica Henkel as new LA-COE Director

LA-COE is excited to announce that Jessica Henkel, Ph.D., is the new Director of LA-COE. She also serves as Deputy Director to the Chief Scientist at The Water Institute. Prior to joining the Institute, Henkel served as the Science Advisor to the RESTORE Council. She has a deep understanding of the Gulf of Mexico region, and her commitment to transdisciplinary collaboration makes her a perfect fit for the LA-COE program. In Henkel's new role as director, she will facilitate a grant program supporting research directly relevant in implementing Louisiana's Coastal Master Plan.





Co-production of Science Workshop

The NOAA RESTORE Science Program, RESTORE Act Center of Excellence for Louisiana, and Louisiana Sea Grant will host a workshop focused on how to plan and conduct research that is driven by the needs of resource managers and fully integrates managers into the research process. This practice known as co-production can lead to research findings and products that better align with the decisions resource managers face. The workshop will take place **May 3 - 4, 2023** at the Raising Cane's River Center in Baton Rouge, LA. The workshop, *Using Co-Production to Engage Stakeholders and Create Effective Science-to-Management Solutions*, will bring together natural resource managers and academic researchers to learn about science co-production and discuss best practices to improve science for natural resource management in Louisiana. More information will be provided once available.

Funding Opportunity - Gulf Ecosystem Initiative

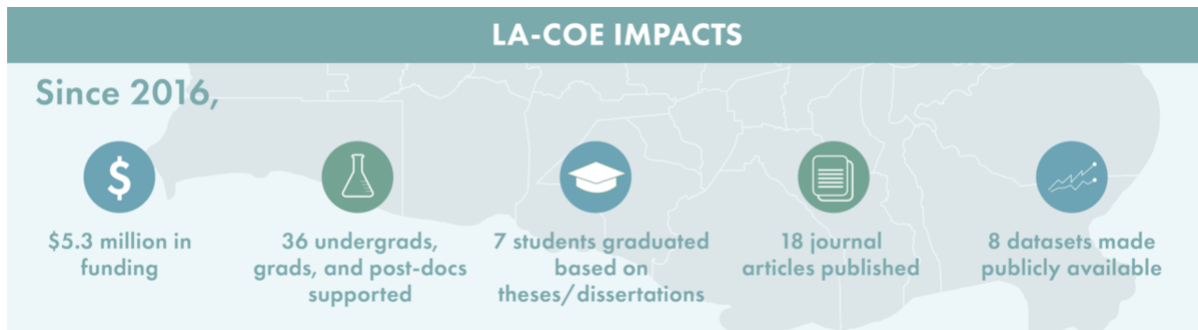
The Gulf Ecosystem Initiative (GEI) is a collaboration between the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS) from Santa Barbara, California and the NOAA RESTORE Science Program to help fund postdoctoral research and synthesis science.



A multidisciplinary team composed of scientists and decision makers will work to solve issues regarding the Gulf of Mexico. This initiative covers three main areas of concern: fisheries, climate change, and ecological impact of management.

Calls for proposals are periodical. The GEI is currently accepting proposals for 2023. Applications close Jan. 31, 2022 at 5 p.m. PDT. Two to three working groups will be funded at approximately \$75,000 to \$125,000 for two years. For more information, please visit their website.

Impacts



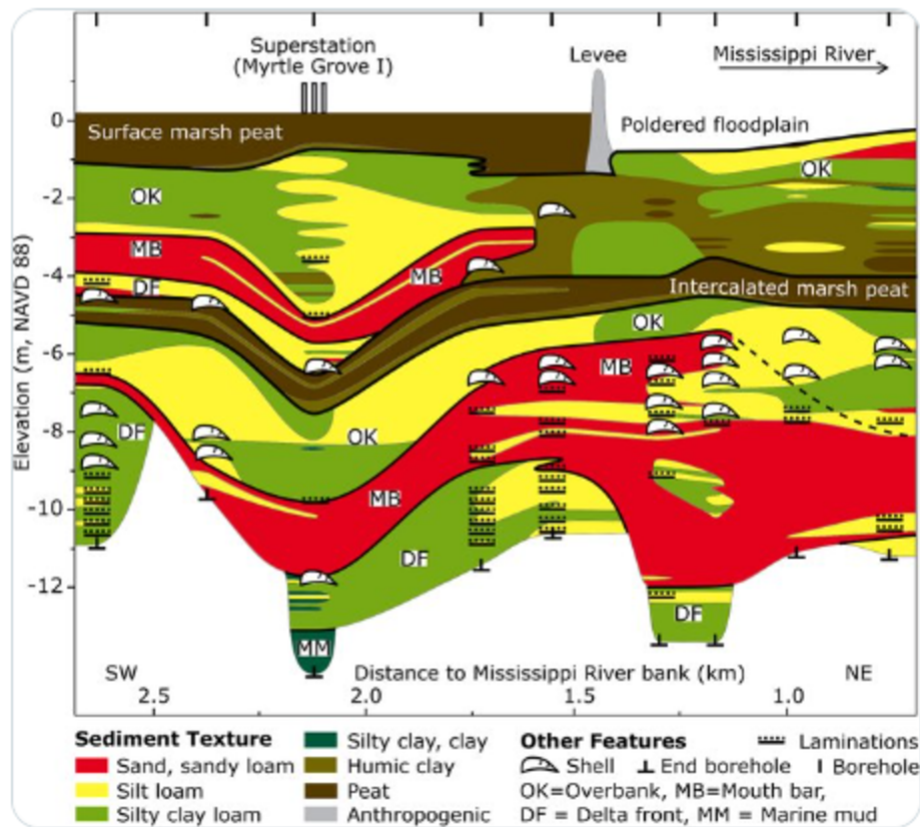
Tweet of the Quarter



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Read more about how combining Geodetic and Geologic methods can improve subsidence monitoring in the Mississippi River delta. Cool work partially funded by [#LouisianaCOE](#) and being done by [@Tulane](#) Ph.D. candidate Guandong Li with Dr. Torbjörn Törnqvist. bit.ly/3iJOKd1



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Success Metrics

Success metrics developed in SOP Version 1 (V1, Darnell et al., 2016) were used to monitor the progress of LA-COE projects that were funded under the first Request for Proposals (RFP1). The tracking of success metrics enables LA-COE to identify important events and trends of subawards as well as guide the LA-COE to improve management of future funding cycles.

More details on RFP1 cycle success metrics are available [here](#).

The assessment for outcome “number of Coastal Master Plan projects and programs that directly utilize research findings within one year of project completion” has been evaluated after project completion. A total of seven RFP1 projects directly contributed to the implementation of the Coastal Master Plan providing important research information,

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The success metrics for RFP2 cycle can be found [here](#). RFP2 cycle success metrics are currently being evaluated for the grant process category.

Notification of Dissemination

As a reminder, you must notify the LA-COE Deputy Director 60 days prior to disseminating any information (e.g., abstracts, papers, seminars, media releases, etc.) about your LA-COE funded project so that LA-COE and CPRA are aware. Please email LA-COE@thewaterinstitute.org with the information you plan to disseminate. CPRA has been fantastic at getting back to LA-COE and Principal Investigators ASAP.

Semi-Annual Performance Progress Report

The fourth Semi-Annual Performance Progress Report (PPR) is due Feb. 28, 2023. Each Principal Investigator should create an account and submit their PPR [here](#).

The PPR template can be found [here](#).

Reporting	Period	PPR #	Date Due
Semi-annual PPR#1	August 2021– January 2022	1	February 28, 2022
Semi-annual PPR#2	February 2022– July 2022	2	August 31, 2022
Semi-annual PPR#3	August 2022– January 2023	3	February 28, 2023
Semi-annual PPR#4	February 2023– July 2023	4	August 31, 2023
Final report	August 2021– August 2023	N/A	August 31, 2023
Data available	Within 1 year after final report	N/A	July 31, 2024

PI Reference Guide

The LA-COE developed the PI Reference Guide to help Principal Investigators (PIs) quickly obtain essential information pertaining to LA-COE and helpful material for inclusion in products such as reports, manuscripts, presentations, and archived data.

View the entire PI Reference Guide [here](#).

Data Management Best Practices

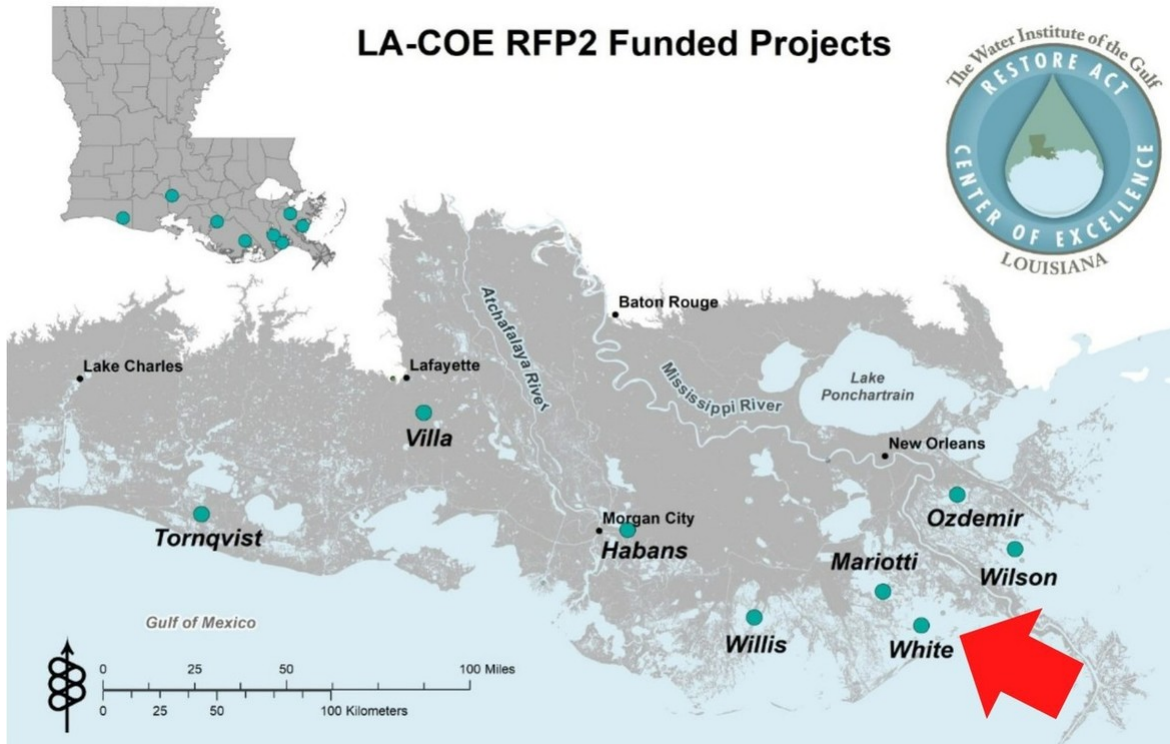
In October, LA-COE developed a guide of best practices for data management to assist researchers with managing their data, producing metadata, and supporting the inclusion of their data into a public repository. According to the LA-COE Standard Operating Procedure

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Version 3 (SOP V3), “All data, collected data products, and metadata must be made publicly available within one year after submission of the final report.”

Read the full Data Management Best Practices Guide [here](#).

Funded Research



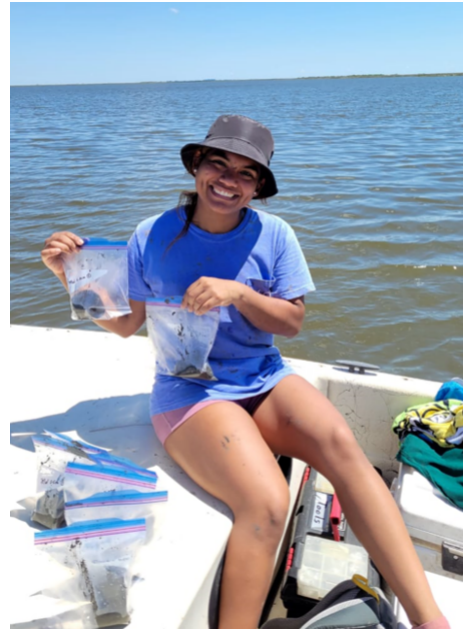
Project Highlight

Dynamics of Nitrogen and Phosphorus Cycling Across Barataria Basin

John White, Professor, Department of Oceanography & Coastal Sciences, Louisiana State University

This project led by Professor John White of Louisiana State University quantifies nutrient loads of nitrogen and phosphorus across different geomorphic regions of the Barataria Basin. The goal is to understand how much nitrate is taken in and out of the water column in order to characterize the water quality. Furthermore, this study is significant in the understanding of marsh creation and allow for more effective sediment diversion strategies.

Attached below are images of field work from this project.



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