



New Name for Host Organization

Texas AgriLife Research has become the official name for the host organization for the Gulf Coast CESU. The previous name was Texas Agriculture Experiment Station (TAES). Texas AgriLife Extension Service replaces the Texas Cooperative Extension (TCE). The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences remains unchanged.

Dr. Mark Hussey, director of AgriLife Research said "We are making these changes to better communicate the life-sustaining and life-changing impacts that both AgriLife Research and AgriLife Extension deliver to the people of Texas and beyond."

The name changes are part of a re-branding initiative that was made in January 2008 after more than two years of study. These efforts were begun by Dr. Elsa Murano, now the new president of Texas A&M University.

"The re-branding efforts are centered on one foundational message: 'Agriculture is Life!'" Hussey said.

An adjustment to the official Gulf Coast CESU amendment will be necessary, but there will not be any changes in operations or organization structure. The Gulf Coast CESU will still be housed in the Texas A&M Institute of Renewable Natural Resources which is part of Texas AgriLife Research,

Texas AgriLife Extension Service, and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

New Regional Representative

Mr. Paul Hartwig, the Associate Regional Director for Natural and Cultural Resources, Partnerships, and Interpretation is the new NPS Representative for the Southern Appalachian Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CESU), Piedmont-South Atlantic Coast CESU, South Florida – Caribbean CESU, and Gulf Coast CESU.

Mr. Hartwig replaces Mr. John Yancy who served as Southeastern Regional Representative since the CESU networks inception. John recently retired from the NPS. John's pleasant personality and helpful and kind manner will be missed, but we all wish him well in his future endeavors.

Ms. Carol Daniels, Ms. Gillian Bowser and Mr. Ray Albright remain as the NPS Coordinators for the four southeastern CESUs. They are the primary contacts for the NPS within the CESUs. However, official signature on CESU amendments, agreements and policy regarding the NPS should be sent to Mr. Hartwig. His contact information is:

Mr. Paul Hartwig
National Park Service
Southeast Regional Office
Atlanta Federal Center

1924 Building
 100 Alabama Street, S.W.
 Atlanta, Georgia 30303
 404-562-3100; fax 404-562-3263; cell 404-210-4368
 e-mail: Paul.Hartwig@nps.gov

Funding Activity

For FY08, Texas AgriLife Research, as the host organization for the Gulf Coast CESU, has processed \$1.7 million in contracts from our federal partners. This has been through 28 projects, for an average award of just under \$61,000. National Park Service (NPS) has had the most awards (13) followed by Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) with 7 awards. Department of Defense (DOD) and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) had 6 and 2 awards, respectively.

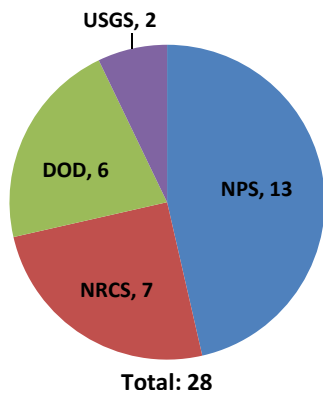


Figure 1. Total awards in FY08.

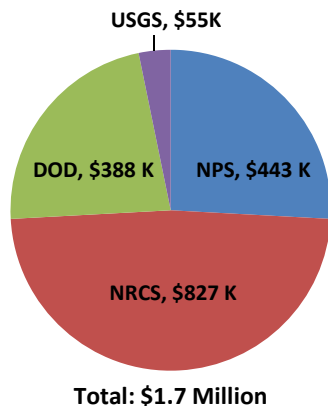


Figure 2. Total amount of funding by federal partner in FY08 (to date).

Approximately 48% of total award dollars have been through the NRCS, while about 26% of dollars have come from the NPS. Almost 23% was from DOD and the remaining 3% from the USGS.

These numbers reflect what has come to Texas A&M or other university partners through the host organization and do not represent all activity within the Gulf Coast CESU.

Annual Meeting

The Gulf Coast CESU Annual Business Meeting will be held on October 29-30 in Orlando at the University of Central Florida. This year we will be part of a regional meeting with our sister southeastern CESUs – Piedmont South Atlantic Coast CESU (PAC) and South Florida-Caribbean CESU (SFC). Draft Agenda is:

Wednesday, 29 October

am: Federal Managers Committees
 Joint Meeting
 CESU Executive Committee Meetings

1:00-1:30 General Session – Welcome

1:30-5:00 Business Sessions/Posters
 1:30-3:00 PAC
 2:30-4:00 SFC
 3:30-5:00 Gulf Coast

6:30-9:00 Reception (hosted)

Thursday, 30 October

8:30-10:00 General Session

10:00-10:30 Break (hosted)
10:30-12:00 CESU Presentations

12:00-1:30 Lunch (hosted)

1:30-3:00 CESU Presentations

3:00-3:30 Break (hosted)

3:30-5:00 CESU Presentations

5:00 ADJOURN

Registration Fee

The South Florida – Caribbean CESU is hosting an active link on their web site for all participants to register (<http://mgs.rsmas.miami.edu/sfcesu/index.asp>) and click on the "Orlando Meeting" link found under News on the left side of their home page to register.

Additional meeting information – meeting locations, hotel information, etc. – will be posted on this web site as well as on the Gulf Coast CESU web site.

Call for Presentations and Posters

All scientists that have received funding through the CESU are encouraged to consider presenting an oral presentation or post. This is also a great opportunity for graduate students to get involved in a professional meeting. Three or four oral presentations and at least 6 posters are needed from each CESU.

Gulf Coast CESU abstracts (250 words, please indicate poster or oral presentation) should be sent to:

Dr. Bob Shaw
Associate Director
Gulf Coast CESU
Texas A&M Institute of Renewable Natural Resources

1500 Research Parkway, Suite 110
2260 TAMU
College Station, Texas 77823

SERPPAS-CESU Sign MOP

The Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability (SERPPAS) and the Gulf Coast CESU and Piedmont-South Atlantic Coast CESU signed a Memorandum of Partnership (MOP) 25 October 2008. The intent of the MOP is to strengthen partnerships among universities, non-governmental organizations and federal agencies for meeting high-priority research and technical needs. Solutions to sustainability issues can best be accomplished when federal managers engage directly with teams of scientists from multiple disciplines.

The MOP establishes a partnership between 2 adjacent CESUs and SERPPAS. The partnership results in a joint CESU which will serve as the "research arm" of SERPPAS. This opportunity provides a venue for partners to work directly with scientists from multiple institutions and disciplines.

A Research Advisory Team (RAT) will be created to (1) develop a SERPPAS-CESU research agenda for addressing high-priority needs, (2) establish funding criteria and guidelines for implementing research projects, and (3) select and monitor the progress of research projects funded by the SERPPAS-CESU partnership.

The benefits of the partnerships are:

a. Interdisciplinary Research – A CESU network will deliver a broad scope of scientific research and technical assistance expertise to SERPPAS partners. These will engage the full range of disciplines used by federal natural and cultural managers including biological, physical, social and cultural areas of study. The partnership will

benefit multiple federal agencies and encourage interdisciplinary research projects related to sustainability issues across the southeast.

b. Cost Effectiveness – The partnership will result in savings due to lower overhead costs and leveraging of funds among partners.

c. Sustainable Research Program – The CESUs would become the research arm of SERRPAS by providing solutions to issues of sustainability by engaging directly with teams of scientists from multiple disciplines.

All GCCESU partners will be notified of research, educational and outreach opportunities under this new partnership.