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CERF Selects Awardees of 2019 Rising TIDES Conference Program for Underrepresented Minority Students

The Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation (CERF) is proud to announce the recipients of the 2019 Rising TIDES (Toward an Inclusive, Diverse, and Enriched Society) Conference Program awards. Rising TIDES will jointly support underrepresented minority (URM) students and their mentors to participate in the 25th Biennial CERF Conference in Mobile, Alabama, 3-7 November 2019.

CERF received 40 applications from students based at institutions around the world. From these applications, 14 student/mentor pairs were selected:

- **Kailani Acosta**, Ph.D. student, Columbia University. Mentor: Lori Sutter, University of Georgia
- **Kelcie Chiquillo**, Ph.D. student, University of California, Los Angeles. Mentor: Tiara Moore, University of Washington and The Nature Conservancy
- **Nicholas Coleman**, undergraduate senior, Coastal Carolina University. Mentor: William Ball, Johns Hopkins University and Chesapeake Research Consortium
- **Johanna Dieudonne**, undergraduate junior, Georgia Southern University. Mentor: John Carroll, Georgia Southern University
- **Emelie Foster**, undergraduate senior, University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Mentor: Anna Armitage, Texas A&M University Galveston
- **Hannah Hayes**, undergraduate senior, University of California Los Angeles. Mentor: Julie Schram, University of Oregon
- **Alfonso Macias-Tapia**, Ph.D. student, Old Dominion University. Mentor: Xuan Chen, Salisbury University
- **Steven Manos**, undergraduate sophomore, Portland Community College. Mentor: Julie Schram, University of Oregon
- **Kayla Martinez-Soto**, master's student, Virginia Institute of Marine Science. Mentor: David Johnson, Virginia Institute of Marine Science
- **Cheryl Patel**, master's student, San Francisco State University. Mentor: Chris Madden, South Florida Water Management District
- **Danielle Perry**, Ph.D. student, University of Rhode Island. Mentor: Cathleen Wigand, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- **Joseph Reustle**, Ph.D. student, Texas A&M University- Corpus Christi. Mentor: Linda Bui, Louisiana State University
- **Sommer Starr**, master's student, University of Alabama. Mentor: Corianne Tatariw, University of Alabama
- **Jennifer Zhu**, Ph.D. student, The Graduate Center CUNY. Mentor: J. Stephen Gosnell, The Graduate Center CUNY

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Through joint support of both students and mentors, this program aims to enhance career development of URM students, ensure that students participating in the program will have sustained mentorship following the conference, help develop a community of practice for CERF members who are engaged in building diversity and inclusion within their own organizations and across institutions, and involve those who are already mentors of URM students in helping to transform CERF into a broadly inclusive society.

The 14 students were selected for their commitment to broadening participation in coastal and estuarine science and management, as well as for their strong academic promise and relevant professional and extracurricular engagement. CERF's regional Affiliate Societies were also involved in the selection process to ensure broad geographical representation among the awardees. "We were extremely impressed with the overall high caliber of the Rising TIDES applications," says Dr. Hilary Neckles, USGS Research Ecologist and CERF President. "We are excited to engage these exceptional students and their mentors in building a more diverse and inclusive future for coastal and estuarine science."

The Rising TIDES Conference Program is part of a comprehensive initiative to enhance diversity and inclusion in CERF and coastal and estuarine sciences. The 2019 Program is supported by the National Science Foundation (award number 1928845), which provides full funding for students and partial funding for mentors to participate in the 2019 CERF Conference. In addition to the full suite of scientific sessions and other conference activities, students and their mentors will participate in a workshop with expert panelists and key CERF members and partners who are leaders in diversity, with the goal of inspiring and motivating URM students to pursue career pathways in coastal and estuarine science. Diversity, inclusion, and equity themes are infused throughout the regular conference programming for the benefit of all attendees.

Learn more about Rising TIDES: <https://www.cerf.science/risingtides>

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About CERF

The Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation (CERF) is a private, non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to advancing the understanding and wise stewardship of estuarine and coastal ecosystems worldwide. Members of the Federation include researchers, managers, educators, students, and others from a wide variety of sectors, including academia, government, industry, and non-governmental organizations. The CERF Biennial Conference is recognized as the premier conference on the science and management of coastal and estuarine systems and resources. Learn more about CERF at www.cerf.science.