



CERF 2021

26TH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE



CERF 2021 DESIGN COMPETITION COASTAL VIRGINIA

The CERF 2021 Design Competition is a forward-facing initiative to inspire students and faculty across disciplines to work together in proposing design solutions and innovative strategies to make our coastal environments more resilient in the face of coastal impacts of climate change. The Design Competition is also intended as a complementary way in which CERF can collaborate with local communities to problem solve together around pressing challenges. The Design Competition will focus on a specific site in Coastal Virginia on which all design proposals must focus.

STAGE ONE submissions DUE October 21, 2020 • STAGE TWO submissions DUE May 2021.

OVERVIEW OF THE COASTAL DESIGN COMPETITION

The 2021 Coastal Design Competition focuses on critical issues of coastal settlement, ecosystem restoration, flood protection and economic development highlighting the capacity of faculty-led, transdisciplinary teams to solve coastal problems and respond to climate change in the coastal Virginia region.

Stage 1 winners will receive up to \$5,000 per team to cover conference participation. In Stage 2, FIRST PRIZE is \$2,000 (\$1,000 for faculty mentor/s) and SECOND PRIZE is \$1,000. Winning entries will also be considered as part of coastal resilience and adaptation planning in the area.

Projects should:

- 1) promote coastal resilience and adaptation** by designing systems and solutions that reduce vulnerability of coastal communities;
- 2) utilize that research to meet or respond to public interests or needs**, showing design solutions that increase the research "impact" or relevance; and how actions affect research by showing design solutions using interdisciplinary techniques; and

- 3) engage in problem-solving** that elevates the voices and needs of community members in a collaborative, co-production model.

The request for submissions will emphasize data-driven design and actionable plans that work with and for community priorities. The Design Competition organizers will work directly with local contacts to provide information for site assessment and extensive resources for the teams to maximize input of local community priorities from the start of the design process. Faculty-student teams may partner with A&E firms, but research and design must be faculty-led. Submissions are welcome from teams from across the US. Connections with underrepresented groups are encouraged along with diverse teams and thoughtful inclusion of regional Minority Serving Institutions.

**REGISTER TO JOIN US FOR A VIRTUAL Q&A WITH
THE DESIGN COMPETITION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 9, AT 11AM EST.**

[HTTPS://CERF-DESIGN-COMPETITION.EVENTBRITE.COM](https://cerf-design-competition.eventbrite.com)



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SUPPORT

Teams selected for Stage Two of the competition will have access to informational webinars; site documentation; and up to \$5000 per team for conference participation (if in-person). Projects will be displayed at the conference and publicized by the sponsors. First prize of \$2000 and second prize of \$1000 will be awarded.

SITE

The site is in Hampton, VA. Details to be provided.

COMPETITION ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Co-Chairs:

Jori Erdman, *James Madison University*

Tiffany Troxler, *Florida International University*

Jenna Clark, *Maryland Sea Grant*

Troy Hartley, *Virginia Sea Grant*

Jen Irish, *Virginia Tech*

Ed Lewandowski, *Delaware Sea Grant*

Karen McGlathery, *University of Virginia*

David Myers, *University of Maryland College Park*

Skip Stiles, *Wetlands Watch, Norfolk, VA*

Robert Twilley, *Louisiana Sea Grant*

Ross Weaver, *Wetlands Watch, Norfolk, VA*

COMPETITION PROCESS

Stage One—Open call for abstracts that outline the faculty-student teams as well as the particular research interests and expertise of the team. Based on the abstract/proposal, the Coastal Design Competition Committee will select no more than 6 teams to compete in Stage Two. See the [CERF submission website](#) for more information and requirements.

SUBMISSIONS DUE: OCTOBER 21, 2020

Stage One winners expected to be announced November 1, 2020.

Stage Two—Design Competition—Selected abstracts/teams will use the spring and summer of 2021 to research and design a proposal in response to the design challenge. The teams will present at the 2021 CERF Conference. Entries will be juried and winners announced by a panel of experts during the Conference.

SUBMISSIONS DUE: MAY 2021

SUBMIT PROPOSALS ONLINE: [HTTPS://CERF.CONFEX.COM/CERF/2021/CFS.CGI](https://cerf.confex.com/cerf/2021/cfs.cgi)

QUESTIONS? CONTACT: **JORI ERDMAN** - [JORI.ERDMAN@GMAIL.COM](mailto:jori.erdman@gmail.com) • **TIFFANY TROXLER** - [TROXLERT@FIU.EDU](mailto:troxlert@fiu.edu)

INTERESTED IN SPONSORING THE COMPETITION? CONTACT **TROY HARTLEY** - [THARTLEY@VASEAGRANT.ORG](mailto:thartley@vaseagrant.org)

WHAT IS CERF?

Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation (CERF), is a multidisciplinary organization of individuals who study and manage the structure and functions of estuaries and the effects of human activities on these environments. CERF members are dedicated to advancing human understanding and appreciation of the Earth's estuaries and coasts, to the wise use and management of these environments and to making the results of their research and management actions available to their colleagues and to the public.

WHY JOIN US AT CERF?

You and our colleagues will come together to network, celebrate our work, learn from each other, and grow within our amazing field as we endeavor to connect science and society in the collective goals of preserving coastal and estuarine habitats, resources, and heritage. Collaborate and discuss with more than 1,700 scientists and researchers from all over the world. Join CERF today! <https://www.cerf.science/join-cerf-today>



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