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Jamila Roth awarded first CERF Legacy Fund Scholarship

The Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation (CERF) is proud to announce the recipient of the first CERF Legacy Fund Scholarship. Jamila Roth, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Florida, has been selected for the inaugural award.

Roth studies how seagrass species diversity impacts their resistance and resilience to warming temperatures. Not only do warming temperatures affect the physiology of the seagrasses, but they also change grazing pressure as tropical species such as green turtles, manatees, and parrotfish move northward. She is investigating the three most common seagrass species in the Gulf of Mexico (*Halodule wrightii*, *Syringodium filiforme*, and *Thalassia testudinum*). Roth currently has funding to study four different possible responses to these warming temperatures. The Legacy Fund Scholarship will allow her to augment her research by studying an additional response: changes in chemical defenses. Roth's research will increase our understanding of the defenses these seagrasses may have to increased grazing pressure. The results of her research may inform management and restoration of seagrass populations in order to maintain valuable ecosystem services and functions.

CERF sponsors the Legacy Fund Scholarship for student and early career members of the Federation to enhance the research and career development of the next generation of coastal and estuarine scientists and managers. This scholarship is supported through generous donations to the CERF Legacy Fund. Funds are intended to be used for a unique and valuable enhancement to the recipient's research or career development. CERF received 28 applications for the 2019 CERF Legacy Fund Scholarship program.

The CERF Legacy Fund honors scientists, resource managers, decision-makers, educators, and others for their important contributions to the understanding and wise stewardship of estuarine and coastal ecosystems worldwide. The Legacy Fund was first established in 2018 with a generous donation of \$12,333 in honor of long time CERF member Holly Greening's retirement from the Tampa Bay Estuary Program. Donations are accepted at: <https://www.cerf.science/donate#funds>.

Learn more about the CERF Legacy Fund Scholarship Program: <https://www.cerf.science/cerf-legacy-fund-scholarship>.

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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.