



### BUILDING THE BRIDGE

A two-day workshop in December of 2010 hosted by North Carolina State University with COSEE SE partnership gathered regional diversity leaders from Universities and state/federal agencies. The workshop, funded by an NSF OEDG (Opportunities for Enhancing Diversity in Geosciences) planning grant awarded to Dr. Carrie Thomas of the Marine, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences Department at North Carolina State University, directly resulted in collaborating between NC OPT-ED and COSEE SE. Through this collaboration, underrepresented minority students in North Carolina are gaining exposure to ocean sciences.



### COSEE SE

COSEE SE is part of COSEE Network comprised of 12 regional and thematic centers devoted to excellence in marine education. COSEE is funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation. COSEE SE covers a region comprised of North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia.

#### Objectives

- Engage scientists and educators in mutually beneficial and catalytic programs.
- Facilitate integration of research into high quality educational materials and establish links to foster the development and dissemination of materials.
- Increase access to ocean sciences for underrepresented and underserved populations.
- Develop and support local, regional and national networks to attain a sustainable communication system among ocean scientists and educators in formal and nonformal or “free choice” institutions.
- Provide expertise in evaluation strategies and to design instruments that assess and strengthen new and ongoing efforts within the region and the National COSEE Network.

[www.cosee-se.org](http://www.cosee-se.org)



### UTILIZING THE BRIDGE

#### Information Sharing:

professional development workshops, career planning

#### Collaboration:

funding, scholarships, research

#### Exposure, Education, Engagement:

minority serving institutions, K-12 students, faculty

#### Networking:

graduate students, faculty, administrators, staff

### NC OPT-ED

The North Carolina Alliance to Create Opportunity through Education is an AGEP Collaborative Research Training Alliance operating at *The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*, *North Carolina State University*, and *North Carolina A&T State University*. To help achieve its goal of increasing the number of underrepresented minority students receiving PhD's and entering the professoriate in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields, NC OPT-ED established a formal network of the below NSF-HRD programs. Informal outreach also occurs with community colleges and the NIH IMSD Program at NCSU. This network fosters active collaboration, capacity-building, and mutual support designed to enhance the success of these programs independently and collectively.

Middle & High School Students: NC MSEN, GEAR-UP, AVID  
Undergraduate Students: HBCU-UP, LSAMP, I3, RISE, CREST, ERC, AGEP  
Graduate Students: CREST, ERC, AGEP

[www.unc.edu/opt-ed](http://www.unc.edu/opt-ed)



### CROSSING THE BRIDGE: NC OPT-ED ALLIANCE DAY

As a result of the collaboration between NC OPT-ED and COSEE SE, Dr. John Bane of UNC Chapel Hill Marine Sciences Department and Dr. Carrie Thomas of North Carolina State MEAS Department each presented a workshop about opportunities in marine and ocean sciences at the Tenth Annual NC OPT-ED Alliance Day on October 14, 2011. Over 500 students from across the state of North Carolina attended the event, with 83% identifying themselves as an underrepresented minority as defined by NSF. Each year NC OPT-ED sponsors this full day professional conference featuring a key note address, student research presentations, a student recruitment fair, and informative workshops. Open to a national audience, Alliance Day features differentiated agendas targeting each academic level.

