

COSEE FLORIDA: WATER AS HABITAT

- **Principal Investigators:** Dr. Edwin Massey, Indian River State College; Dr. Susan Cook, Indian River State College
- **Location:** COSEE Florida is based at Indian River State College in Fort Pierce, FL.
- **Website:** www.coseeflorida.org
- **Collaborators/Partners:** Florida Institute of Technology; Smithsonian Marine Station at Fort Pierce; Ocean Research and Conservation Association
- **Co-Principal Investigators and Key Project Partners:** Dr. Rick Tankersley, Florida Institute of Technology; Dr. Valerie Paul, Smithsonian Marine Station at Fort Pierce; Dr. Edith Widder, Ocean Research and Conservation Association; Dr. Jennifer Capers, Indian River State College; Dr. William Tyler, Indian River State College; Karen Blyler, University of Florida; Dr. Michael Spranger, Florida Sea Grant, Dr. Patti Bourexis, The Study Group



Mission: COSEE Florida's mission is to connect scientists conducting world-class ocean research in the Sunshine State with Florida's citizens in exciting and meaningful ways. The majority of Florida's population lives within twenty miles of the coast and scientists affiliated with our Center will play an important role in effectively communicating the importance of the oceans and ocean-related research to the public across Florida. In addition, the Center is piloting an undergraduate ocean science education concentration to enhance the science education Bachelor's degree programs across the 28 member Florida College System and developing ocean-focused resources for educators aligned with the Sunshine State Standards and national Ocean Literacy Principles.

What We Do: COSEE Florida has three initiatives:

- **Engaging Ocean Scientists:** Through workshops and staff support, COSEE Florida will improve the communication skills, outreach materials, and funding opportunities for ocean scientists throughout Florida.
- **Florida Ocean Learning Community:** Through public lectures, professional education workshops, community events and web-based communications, COSEE Florida will provide educational and collaborative opportunities for scientists, educators, and the broader Florida community to better understand ocean science.
- **Ocean Science Concentration for Pre-Service Educators:** Through college coursework, research experience, and curriculum resources focused on ocean science, COSEE Florida will develop and disseminate a pre-service teaching program to college programs throughout Florida that will give the science teachers of tomorrow a strong background in ocean science.



Who We Are: COSEE Florida's core partners are Indian River State College, Florida Institute of Technology, Ocean Research and Conservation Association, and Smithsonian Marine Station in Fort Pierce.

Audience: Ocean scientists, leaders of marine organizations, formal and informal educators, local and state governmental agencies, businesses and citizens.

Date Established: October 2010

Why We Were Established: It is important for COSEE to have a presence in Florida, a state with over 1,350 miles of salt-water coastline. Our center is building statewide connections with Florida's ocean research community to provide professional development opportunities for scientists to improve their ability to communicate the value and importance of their science, enhance public ocean literacy and help strengthen STEM education in Florida.

History: COSEE Florida is a new Center funded as part of NSF's fourth Center competition.



What We Offer...

- **Presentation Boot Camps:** COSEE Florida is sponsoring two-day workshops for ocean scientists aimed at improving our community's ability to communicate the excitement and value of ocean research to non-scientific audiences.
- **Quality Outreach Workshops:** To complement the Boot Camps, the Center will also host workshops to help scientists who wish to develop quality outreach programs that bring the excitement of research into both formal and informal education settings.

- **COSEE Florida Science Fellow Program:** Each year a cohort of 4-6 Fellows will work with COSEE staff on Center educational initiatives. In return, our staff will help Fellows develop high quality education and outreach plans that will meet NSF's Broader Impacts requirement for upcoming NSF proposals.
- **'Water As Habitat' Florida Ocean Learning Network:** COSEE Florida, in partnership with ocean education centers throughout the state, will host events that will bring scientists, educators, and the general public together. These events will feature ocean-based

interactive presentations, educator workshops, and opportunities for continued participant engagement throughout the state, in the field, in the classroom, and online.

- **Ocean Science Concentration for Pre-Service Educators:** As the lead agency for COSEE Florida, Indian River State College is improving the ocean literacy of future middle school science teachers by creating courses, lesson plans, and research internships for students enrolled in the college's teaching credential program.