

# **Mission Statement** **of the** ***College of Marine Science***

## **University Of South Florida**

**Approved: 15 May 2002**

### **Mission**

The primary mission of the College is to conduct basic and applied research in ocean science. Here, ocean science is defined by application of the traditional fields of science to both the biology, chemistry, geology, and physics of the marine environment and to the interactions between the marine environment and the adjoining atmosphere and land systems - presently and throughout earth's history. Included in the primary ocean science mission is the development of new technologies and tools for exploring the coupled ocean-atmosphere-land systems. The College expects its faculty to develop research programs of outstanding caliber and to fully engage the national and international scientific communities, through the reporting of research results in the most respected oral and written venues, and by professional service.

Integral to the ocean science research mission is the education of graduate students. The College recruits, trains, and graduates productive, creative scientists at the Ph.D. and M.S. levels that are prepared to make independent contributions to ocean science. The faculty are expected to develop outstanding graduate education programs that will afford students the opportunity to participate in all aspects of research. The College recognizes that graduate education requires strong mentoring along with traditional classroom instruction. Faculty contact hours are largely determined by individual interactions in the laboratory, office, and during sea-going expeditions, in addition to traditional course offerings.

An ancillary but important mission of the College is educational outreach for students at all levels and for the public at large. Our outreach programs have significantly expanded our educational responsibilities, and they are intended to motivate all generations to become scientifically literate citizens and to understand the environment in which they live. The College pursues innovative avenues for educational outreach. Efforts are made to attract more junior and senior level undergraduates into both the ocean science core courses and into advanced courses for which they have pre-requisites. Historically, this is a way in which students have made career decisions to engage in ocean science. In this manner the College maintains close ties with the student body in other University of South Florida Colleges and campuses.

Fulfilling our primary and ancillary missions requires strong partnerships with international, federal, state, county, and local government agencies, and with the private sector. The College thus nurtures and strengthens existing partnerships, while developing new ones through a combination of increased public awareness, professional service, and excellence in our primary and ancillary missions.

A strong community involved in the activities of teaching, research, and service is central to the mission of the CMS. It is necessary that faculty governance be collegial and represent diverse points of view. At the same time, the governance process should be efficient and aim to achieve broad participation of tenured, tenure-earning, and non tenure-earning faculty and staff.

The fundamental premise of this document is that a relationship of mutual respect and trust exists among those faculty named as College administrators and other faculty and staff members whose activities are focused primarily on teaching, research, and other professional service. The College administration shall represent the interests of the CMS to the central administration of the USF and oversee and allocate the human, financial, and material resources of the College among the various units comprising the CMS.