

THE COASTAL CENTER

PROGRAMMING SUMMARY

PROJECT OVERVIEW

A cooperative endeavor agreement between Nicholls State University, Governor John Bel Edwards, and the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority was signed in 2019 to create a "coastal center" at Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, Louisiana. The center is intended to provide a physical location for public and private industry to work with the university on coastal protection research. This agreement has led the way for other agreements to follow suit.

The campus has partnered with Lafourche Parish Government to begin facilitating the programming and design of the Center.

RESEARCH FOCUS AREAS

- + Atchafalaya Basin Planning
- + Physical Restoration and Monitoring
- + Flood Control, Structural Protection, Shoreline and Living Shorelines
- + Water Quality
- + Sedimentation
- + Fisheries
- + Vegetative Response
- + Extension, Modelling, and Surveying

VISION

A living, working, and resilient coast

GOALS

The Coastal Center at Nicholls State University shall:

MISSION

The Coastal Center at Nicholls State University supports and pursues protection, restoration, and adaptation efforts through science-based research and solutions within Louisiana's dynamic coastal region.

• *advance scientific research and solutions to restore, protect, and sustain the Louisiana coast*

• *develop and implement strategies to nourish, manage, and sustain the Atchafalaya and Terrebonne Basins, the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary, and the Lafourche Delta.*

• *support the efforts of and partner with local, state, and federal agencies, including Louisiana's Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, to implement Louisiana's Coastal Master Plan.*

• *support studies focused on culture, cohesiveness, and resilience of coastal communities.*

• *train new generations of coastal scientists and coastal stewards through educational programming for K-16+ students.*

• *support coastal protection and restoration efforts of both professionals and volunteers through development and extension of best practices through outreach.*

... to support and pursue protection, restoration, and adaptation efforts through science-based research and solutions ...



2019 Nicholls State University Campus

JURISDICTION REQUIREMENTS

Because Nicholls State University is a public entity owned by the State of Louisiana, it is not bound by local building and permitting requirements however, construction drawings are typically shared with public entities for cursory review if they so choose.

Whenever state funds are appropriated or used for construction purposes, the state Division of Administration's Facility Planning Office will oversee all aspects of design and construction.

SITE SELECTION

After evaluating several different options on Nicholls' Campus, it was decided that the corner of Ardoyne Drive and Bowie Road was best suited to the needs of the Coastal Center. The site is currently home to the Nicholls' football practice field that is slated to be relocated within the next year. This allows for a quicker construction start date and limited demolition work. The site is also conveniently located within walking distance of the campus' Applied Sciences Building and student parking. The access to Bowie Road and proximity to Highway 1 is convenient for researchers and the public traveling to and from the Coast.



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

With the formation of a not only a new building but also a new Educational and Research program, it is imperative that the building respond to development and growth with flexibility and adaptability, especially in research-based spaces. By providing areas that can morph and transform without major monetary investment, the center can become a valuable resource to the university and community not only now, but in years to come.

- + Flexibility
- + Adaptability
- + Inclusiveness
- + Collaboration

ORGANIZATIONAL STRATEGY

After investigating different organizational approaches for the spaces in the building, an "outreach" model seemed most fitting and aligned clearly to the center's inherent goals and mission.

When programming the spaces in the building, there were three clear categories that spaces could be defined by: education, research based, and public spaces. Noticeable overlaps in the education and research categories form collaboration spaces. When these spaces combine with the need for public outreach, the organization model for the center becomes more deliberate.



SPATIAL AND DESIGN REQUIREMENTS

LOBBY

Staffed Receptionist Desk
Holding Areas for tours/ visitors

EXHIBIT SPACE

Interactive Displays

MEETING SPACE

3,000 sq. ft. Flexible Meeting Rooms

OFFICES

140 sq. ft.	Director
120 sq. ft. ea.	Admin Staff
120 sq. ft. ea.	4-6 Resident Scientists
120 sq. ft. ea.	Shared Docent Offices
120 sq. ft.	Educator in Residence/ Coord.
120 sq. ft. ea.	Coastal Reporter - NPR
64 sq. ft. ea.	Grad Student Cubicles
	Shared office storage

KITCHEN

500 sq. ft. Warming Kitchen/ Break Room

LABS

Field Cluster

1,200 sq. ft.	Wet Lab
1,200 sq. ft.	Plant Lab
500 sq. ft.	Mud / Decontamination Room

Analytical Cluster

500 sq. ft.	Clean Room
400 sq. ft.	Microscopy Lab
800 sq. ft.	Analytical Lab

Electronic Cluster

1,200 sq. ft.	(2) Computer Classrooms
800 sq. ft.	Computer Modelling Lab
500 sq. ft.	Remote Sensing Lab

Education Cluster

800 sq. ft.	Flex Lab
800 sq. ft.	HS / University Classroom
800 sq. ft.	K-12 Activities Area

Perimeter Cluster

800 sq. ft.	(2) Engineering Labs
800 sq. ft.	Multiple Flex Labs
3,000 sq. ft.	Flume / Wave Lab

STORAGE

200 sq. ft. Additional Storage