

PROGRAMMING SUMMARY

PROJECT OVERVIEW

A cooperative endeavor agreement between Nicholls State University, Governor John Bel Edwards, and the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) was signed in 2019 to create a “coastal center” on the Nicholls Campus in Thibodaux, Louisiana. The Coastal Center will provide a physical location for public and private industry to work with the university on coastal protection research. This collaboration has led to further agreements. The campus has partnered with Lafourche Parish Government in facilitating programming and design of The Coastal Center.

RESEARCH FOCUS AREAS

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

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.

VISION

A living, working, and resilient coast.

GOALS

- 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 8-16+ students.
- support coastal protection and restoration efforts of both professionals and volunteers through development and extension of best practices through outreach.

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The Coastal Center is a tripartite structure to accommodate different but complementary functions.

CLOSEST TO THE COAST

- The Coastal Center at Nicholls State University's groundbreaking was held in November 2023. The 40,000-sq. ft. research-education-conference center will serve as the nexus of coastal protection and restoration activity for the Terrebonne, Atchafalaya, and Lafourche Basins, including resilience solutions for coastal communities.
- The Coastal Center, together with the Coastal Field Research Station at Port Fourchon, the 277-acre University Farm south of Thibodaux, and science facilities on the main campus, will stand as the premiere center for hands-on coastal and estuarine research and training in Louisiana.
- Powered by the 75-year history of Nicholls in service to the Louisiana Gulf Coast, The Coastal Center's research and education activities will produce the next generation of coastal scientists, engineers, and stewards.
- The Coastal Center building will feature a major public education component: A number of educational exhibits focused on coastal and climate challenges together with coastal solutions and success stories will provide critical learning opportunities for students, adults, and tourists visiting the center.

GROWTH & SUSTAINABILITY

Educational Programming:

As a university, Nicholls assumes responsibility for training the next generation of coastal scientists, engineers, and stewards. The Coastal Center will anchor new, revenue-generating degree and outreach training programs focused on generational solutions for the Louisiana Gulf Coast.

Grants and Contracts:

Scientists and engineers working at The Coastal Center will fund research and development activities through sponsored grants and contracts, enhancing relationships with the university's current federal sponsors, such as the National Science Foundation, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, as well as state agencies and other sponsors.

Leasing and Rental:

The Coastal Center design provides 5000-sq.ft. of leasable office and activity space in addition to spaces for conferences and evening events. In addition, resident and visiting scientists will have leasable laboratory and office space at The Coastal Center available to conduct coastal work.

Partnerships:

The Coastal Center will maintain and grow collaborations with its resident campus partners—the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP), the Bayou Region Incubator (BRI), the Coastal Technical Assistance Center (CTAC), Restore or Retreat (RoR), and the South Louisiana Economic Council (SLEC)—on project funding. The Coastal Center is currently partnering with Balanced Media Technology to develop a data refinery designed to assimilate and process data from multiple sources and translate it into usable information, supporting needs of groups and organizations working to solve the specific problems of coastal Louisiana and coasts around the globe.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

LOBBY

Donor Recognition Area

Reception Area



ATRIUM

Large wall-size satellite image of coastal Louisiana with colorized coastal region, showing landforms, & watersheds.

Interactive monitors showing:

- Constructed water management & coastal restoration projects
- Natural estuarine ecology

Immersive film-showing classrooms

Artistic Rendering of The Coastal Center's Symbol — Coastland Swept Tree

Donor Recognition Area Exhibits on:

- Introduction to The Coastal Center
- The Nicholls Coastal Campus

GALLERY

10-12 exhibit installations focused on

The Louisiana Gulf Coast

- Geological Creation & changing morphology
- Settlement

The Living and Working Coast

- Natural Forces
- Animals and Plants
- Human Impact
- Urbanization and Resilience
- Industry, Economy, Environment
- Levees, Streams, & Water Management
- A Hopeful Future
- Restoration & marsh-building
- Erosion control
- Climate initiatives
- CPRA water management constructs
- Community & Cultural Resilience
- Nicholls students & faculty in action

Exhibit Sponsorship Opportunities

Headlands Donor \$1,000,000 or greater
sponsorship rights to Exhibit Gallery, Lobby, or Atrium

Beaches Donor \$500,000
sponsorship rights to one conference room or classroom

Berms Donor \$250,000
sponsorship of Lobby or Atrium exhibit

Dunes Donor \$100,000
sponsorship of a Gallery exhibit

Marshes Donor up to \$100,000
sponsorship of part of a Gallery exhibit

Other programming and research sponsorships are available.

RETURN ON EXHIBIT SPONSORSHIP INVESTMENT

- Name located on Donor Wall
- Name recognized in specific spaces of donation
- Invitation to Annual Donor Events
- Media exposure
- Name represented in Annual Reports
- Name viewed by students, visitors, and public-at-large for many years



The building design accommodates research solutions, public education, agency collaborations, and scientific conferences. Construction began in late 2023 and is scheduled for completion in late 2024/early 2025. With a 75-year history of serving the Bayou Region, and with 87% of students, faculty, and staff living in the Louisiana Coastal Zone, Nicholls is poised to fulfill its vision of “a living, working, and resilient Louisiana Coast” while providing solutions for the land and water issues facing communities in its service region.

5,000

SQ. FT. CONFERENCE &
CLASSROOM SPACES

2 CONFERENCE ROOMS
2 CLASSROOMS

9,300

SQ. FT. RESEARCH
SPACES

6 LARGE LABS
4 SMALL, SPECIALIZED
LABS

6,500

SQ. FT. EXHIBIT SPACE

LOBBY
GALLERY
ATRIUM

10,000

ESTIMATED VISITORS
ANNUALLY

CONTACT US:

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SCAN THE QR CODE FOR
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

FOLLOW US:



Nicholls State University



BROAD VISION. EXPERT FOCUS.

