US ERA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

# **Engagement as an Organizing Concept**

LaDon Swann
MASGC Director





#### **Questions to Be Addressed**

- Relevant outreach experiences the panelists think Task Force should consider as they "think forward"
  - successes/what worked?
  - failures/what didn't work?
  - lessons learned
  - impediments
- Recommended outreach actions/activities the panelists would suggest to the Task Force that they can say yes to:
  - what the panelists plan to or would do in their own programs in the future
  - where's the highest return on investment?

#### **Engagement**

 Engagement – in which institutions and communities form lasting relationships that influence, shape, and promote success in both spheres – is rare. More frequently, there is evidence of unilateral outreach, rather than partnership based on mutual benefit, mutual respect, and mutual accountability<sup>1</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Kellogg Commission. The Engaged Institution: Returning to our Roots

#### **Engagement Characteristics**

- Responsive
- Respects partners
- Maintains intellectual/scientific neutrality
- Accessible
- Integrates
- Coordinates
- Utilizes resource partnerships

## **Desirable Individual Qualities Seven Golden Rules of Extension**

- Be observant
- Meet people
- Look for positives
- Listen
- Don't be too quick with answers
- Don't be afraid to say no
- Anticipate

## **What Does Not Work**

#### **How to Fail**

- Being exclusive and opaque vs. inclusive and transparent.
- Anything that does not establish a long-term relationship with the community using characteristics of engagement.
- Failure to provide the proper "care and feeding" of a regional engagement structure.
- Do not evaluate process and actions using shortlong term outcomes and performance measures.

### **What Works**

## Regional Climate Community of Practice

- A Community of Practice (CoP) is a group of professionals who aim to achieve common outcomes, and who by working together can learn from one another and develop a set of effective common approaches that can be refined over time.
  - Develop a consistent knowledge and skill base among
     GOM EOE experts to incorporate in community planning
  - Inform elected officials and planners about potential impacts of SLR on their communities, effectively conveying both the level of risk and the available solutions

#### **NOAA's Engagement Working Group**

#### A regional engagement framework for NOAA but does include EPA NEPs

Programs	EOE EMP	K-12	Informal	Comms.	Legal	Extension	Training	Coord.	Total
	Personnel	Ed.	Ed.						FTEs
Sea Grant Programs	112	4.5	6.0	15.0	4.5	59.7	0.0	0.0	89.7
National Estuarine Research Reserves	27	7.7	6.3	2.3	0.0	0.0	7.5	2.0	25.7
Weather Forecast Offices	97	1.1	2.0	8.0	0.0	0.0	2.5	0.0	13.6
Gulf Coast Services Center	45	1.0	1.7	2.6	0.0	0.0	3.4	2.9	11.6
GoM Bay-Watershed Education Training	55	4.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.7	10.1
National Marine Sanctuaries	9	1.2	5.2	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.8
River Forecast Centers	22	0.2	1.2	2.4	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.4	4.5
Northern Gulf Institute	4	0.3	1.8	1.8	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	4.0
Office of Coast Survey	4	0.0	0.4	3.2	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	4.0
Coastal Zone Management	8	0.3	0.0	2.8	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.3	3.8
National Coastal Data Development Center	r 2	0.0	0.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0
National Marine Fisheries Service	2	0.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0
Gulf Coastal Ocean Observing System	2	0.2	0.3	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1	1.4
National Data Buoy Center	3	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5
Total Program Results	392	21.0	25.7	43.3	4.5	59.7	15.2	11.3	180.7

# A Recommendation for You to Consider



