COSEE Central Gulf of Mexico

**Mission:** To assist the COSEE Network in “bridging the gap” between ocean and coastal sciences research and the relevance of those data to a broad range of audiences via informal centers.

**What We Do:** To improve environmental literacy, the COSEE CGOM Management Team and Advisory Board involve and excite K-Gray audiences by:

- Engaging scientists and educators in professional development programs (face to face and online)
- Developing or revising inquiry-based, ocean sciences lesson plans for middle school teachers, aligned with State and National Standards
- Providing opportunities aboard U.S. Navy oceanographic survey ships for formal and informal educators
- Expanding and leveraging collaborations through regional partners with similar missions
- Enhancing living and static exhibitry within the four, informal centers
- Increasing workforce diversity through programmatic recruitment efforts
- Making presentations and serving in leadership roles within professional societies at local, state, regional, or national levels

**Who We Are:** COSEE CGOM is a unique, regional collaborative involving formal and informal educators, scientists and the general public representing universities, informal centers, middle schools, and agencies.

**Audience:** K-Gray

**Date Established:** September 2002

**Why We Were Established:** The COSEE CGOM Co-PIs have strengthened environmental literacy and professional relationships by forming collaborations among scientists and formal and informal educators.

**History:** COSEE CGOM personnel have 1) engaged in bridging the gap between scientists’ research and the interpretations of those data for formal and informal educators (K-20), pre-college students, and the general public and 2) assisted scientists in better understanding “how” children learn, the instructional skills used for this learning process, the use of state and national standards, and evaluation and assessment processes.

**What We Offer...**
The COSEE CGOM staff offers an array of programs/resources encompassing:

- Professional development programs involving formal and informal educators (pre- and inservice) and scientists
- Living and static exhibitry within the four, affiliated aquariums, museums, and science centers
- Hands-on, curricular materials, aligned with State and National Standards based on sound science
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- The COSEE CGOM website with resources and programmatic information
- Implementation of programmatic evaluations and assessments
- Opportunities for under-served and underrepresented groups

**Example Offerings...**

- Professional Development: Two-Day Workshops and Summer Institutes for teachers and scientists for undergraduate or graduate credit
- General Public Events: Various festivals and visits to the informal centers
- K-20 Audiences: Elementary through high school summer camps and Coastal Ecology Camps; National Ocean Sciences Bowl; science fairs; Academic-Year, On The Road, and Undergraduate Intern Programs; and mentoring for Docents