Strategic Plan

On September 26, 2009, faculty, student representatives, and representatives from the School of the Coast and Environment met in a day-long retreat to discuss the strategic plan for the Department. The following is a brief summary of the updated vision and mission statements and the list of strategic goals.

Vision

To become the nation’s premier research and educational department in environmental sciences.

Mission

The mission of the Department of Environmental Sciences is to educate students, create knowledge, and conduct outreach to the public pertaining to environmental problems, with an interdisciplinary focus on complex human and natural systems.

Core Values

As an academic department of environmental sciences in a state flagship university, we strive to develop synergy, increase holistic integration, and be responsive to societal needs. Through our research, education, and service, we aim to promote and contribute to:

- Environmental sustainability and sustainable development
- Scientific and technological advances in society, especially in areas of energy, health, resource security, and economic growth
- Better, informed, and science-based policies and environmental decision-making
- Better, informed, and diverse workforce to respond to environmental challenges
- Model for best practice in environmental stewardship

Goals

- To educate graduate and undergraduate students and to offer professional educational opportunities
- To conduct basic and applied research that is focused on understanding and solving specific environmental problems
- To provide public service for solving environmental problems in an economically sound manner, and for resolving environmental conflicts
- To increase opportunities for faculty, staff, and student development, and to stimulate professionalism

Strategic goals (next 3 years)

- To educate graduate and undergraduate students and to offer professional educational opportunities:
  Task 1: To establish the PhD in Environmental Sciences program
  Task 2: To increase enrollment and student contact hours through streamlining existing curriculums and course offerings
Task 3: To expand educational opportunities by collaborating with other academic programs both on and off campus and offering professional educational opportunities

- To conduct basic and applied research that is focused on understanding and solving specific environmental problems:
  Task 1: To increase publications in high-impact outlets through targeted journal submissions and collaborative research
  Task 2: To increase grant support through increased grant submissions and collaboration
  Task 3: To increase support for students through fellowships, grants, and contracts

- To provide public service for solving environmental problems in an economically sound manner, and for resolving environmental conflicts
  Task 1: To increase our national recognition through service and active participation in professional organizations and learned societies.
  Task 2: To support efforts in expanding name recognition of the School of the Coast & Environment
  Task 3: To increase communication with alumni, students, stakeholders, and the public by developing an effective communication plan

- To increase opportunities for faculty, staff, and student development, and to stimulate professionalism
  Task 1: To actively nominate faculty, staff, and students for appropriate awards and professional enhancement activities
  Task 2: To identify list of organizations for student internships
  Task 3: To support student organizations such as Environmental Graduate Organization (EGO) and promote professional development of students
  Task 4: To develop a recruitment plan for next key faculty hires
  Task 5: To creatively increase faculty size and participation in our educational and research programs
  Task 6: To reach out to alumni through increased communications
  Task 7: To increase fundraising and endowments by identifying potential donors and establishing advisory boards
  Task 8: To increase cohesiveness of the department through collaborative research, seminar series, and social activities