

November 3, 2016

Donald E. Jackson, Jr.  
Major General, U.S. Army  
Deputy Commanding General  
for Civil and Emergency Operations  
441 G Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20314-1000

Major General Jackson:

The College of Engineering at Texas A&M University is delighted to receive your letter proposing our collaboration with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on developing and infusing high impact coastal science and engineering in the Gulf of Mexico, utilizing the Texas coast serving as a proving ground. We have recently combined our capabilities in College Station and Galveston to form a world class program for ocean and coastal engineering that will contribute greatly to this value proposition. Together, the future is bright for pursuing the USACE-proposed Coastal Science and Engineering Collaborative (CSEC) in realizing a vision for sustainable and resilient regionally-integrated infrastructure in Texas on America's Energy Coast. We believe that the Engineering with Nature Program at USACE is a strategic enabler to this cause.

We have been engaging USACE, Galveston District and Engineer Research and Development Center over the past year to cultivate the CSEC vision and we value the opportunity to craft a partnership agreement for building relationships that will evolve the focus of coastal science and engineering research and development on relevant needs, bring opportunities for Texas A&M professors and students to engage USACE in these areas with an academic and career context, and support delivery of coastal water resources value to the nation. This strategic alliance will propel knowledge in the field to new levels and will serve as the premier model for the coastal science and engineering community of practice as we set the pace together in this underpinning field of research.

Sincerely,



M. Katherine Banks, Ph.D., P.E.  
Vice Chancellor and Dean of Engineering  
Director, Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station  
Harold J. Haynes Dean's Chair Professor