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School of Marine Sciences / Darling Marine Center

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Final Report for Period: 09/1997 - 02/2000

Submitted on: 07/23/2001

Principal Investigator: Eckelbarger, Kevin J.

Award ID: 9714007

Organization: University of Maine

Title:

School of Marine Sciences

Project Participants

Senior Personnel

Name: Eckelbarger, Kevin

Worked for more than 160 Hours: Yes

Contribution to Project:

Post-doc

Graduate Student

Undergraduate Student

Research Experience for Undergraduates

Organizational Partners

Other Collaborators or Contacts

Activities and Findings

Project Activities and Findings:

The NSF-supported dormitory was completed in August of 1999 at a cost of \$1,700,000. NSF provided \$200,000 and the remainder was University match - well above the required match amount. The dormitory is a 11,500 sq. ft., single-story structure located near the waterfront, containing 16 rooms with 68 student beds and a small faculty apartment with two bedrooms, a shared bath and a living room area. The dormitory also has a modern kitchen and dining hall capable of feeding 120 people. The dining hall is also used for conferences, meetings, and occasional seminars for it is provided with audiovisual equipment. The dorm has a student laundry room, a separate laundry facility for staff use, and two large bathroom/shower rooms for women and men.

Project Training and Development:

N/A

Research Training:

The dormitory has allowed the Center to expand its summer internship program and to house far more visiting investigators. The dining hall facility is also used for conferences and meetings and these activities have greatly increased to about 20 conferences each year. The dining hall is also being used for special workshops. For example, Dr. Mary Jane Perry is teaching a 5-week Optical Oceanography workshop this summer for ~20 Ph.D-level scientists/faculty using the dining hall for morning lectures - with labs held in another building. August 22-26, the dorm and dining hall will be used to support the 4th North American Echinoderm Conference with ~85 scientists participating. This summer, the Center has 35 summer interns (some supported by NSF's REU program) and they live in the dorm and use the dining facility. In addition, the dorm is used by summer course participants, visiting investigators, and ~300 undergraduate students from ~30 visiting colleges each year. Currently, the Center is housing 110 people of which 62 are being housed in the dormitory.

Outreach Activities:

The Center has a support group, the Gulf of Maine Foundation, that conducts a public summer lecture series in the dining hall to raise funds for undergraduate internships. The dormitory/dining hall are also used for regular Foundation meetings to coordinate a K-12 marine education program for the local schools that is being supervised by a half-time Program Coordinator and a summer intern student paid for with

Foundation funds. The dormitory facility is prominently featured in the Center's twice annual newsletter, Making Waves, and is being promoted to visitors in a new brochure.

Journal Publications

Books or Other One-time Publications

Web/Internet Site

Other Specific Products

Contributions

Contributions within Discipline:

The construction of the new dormitory/dining hall has more than doubled the number of beds available to visiting students, course participants, and visiting investigators. It has allowed the Center to expand its internship program, visiting investigator program, summer courses/workshops, and greatly increase the number of meetings/conferences held on campus. Mid-coast Maine lacks affordable summer housing and this new facility is very attractive to visitors who can have high-quality housing at very low cost. The new building has become the centerpiece of the Center's campus and now serves a wide range of functions.

Contributions to Other Disciplines:

Scientists from a wide variety of disciplines use the facility for meetings, conferences, and workshops as well as housing space while conducting research in the area.

Contributions to Human Resource Development:

N/A

Contributions to Science and Technology Infrastructure:

The new building now serves as a primary resource supporting all educational programs, fund-raising efforts, and visiting investigator research efforts by providing high-quality housing, dining facilities and meeting space. All visiting students (primarily out-of-state), summer interns, course participants, visiting investigators, and conference attendees use the new building during their visits. Without the new building, all Center educational and research programs would suffer in some way.

Contributions: Beyond Science or Engineering:

The Center recently received a state grant to construct a small 'aquaculture incubator' laboratory to support Maine industry. The new lab will allow aquaculture-related companies to do research on site using many Center resources including the new dormitory/dining hall where business meetings and aquaculture-related conferences can be held. The new building has also served as a meeting facility for a number of fisheries-related meetings attended by State, Federal, and national participants.

Categories for which nothing is reported:

Organizational Partners

Any Journal

Any Book

Any Web/Internet Site

Any Product