

**The Coastal Areas Climate Change Education (CACCE) Partnership:
Development and Planning Efforts for Climate Change Education in Florida
and the Caribbean**

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The CACCE Partnership (www.cacce.net), with funded partners at the University of South Florida, the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez, the University of the Virgin Islands, the Florida Aquarium, and the Hillsborough County School System, is one of the fifteen NSF-funded Climate Change Education Partnership (CCEP) Program Phase 1 projects, focused on developing a network of partnering organizations and a comprehensive strategic plan for climate change education focused on the impacts of climate change in low-lying coastal areas of Florida and the Caribbean, with a strong emphasis on issues of the "built environment". CACCE targets the needs of several key stakeholder audiences:

- 1) Professionals working in the built environment. CACCE Strategic Partners include key urban planning and development organizations, the Florida State University Department of Urban and Regional Planning, and the Florida Center for Environmental Studies at FAU, aimed at providing education resources tailored to the needs of planning professionals and urban decision-makers. We are currently engaging key players in the Caribbean tourism industry in the US and Virgin Islands.
- 2) K-12 educators and students. Educator and student surveys reveal much lower levels of classroom attention to climate change and its impacts in Florida schools versus those in Puerto Rico. We are piloting a strategy to bring relevant climate change content to Florida high school students through popular elective marine science courses, working with FL district science supervisors and their PR counterparts to provide professional development for teachers. As well, students and teachers in FL and PR schools are participating in Multiple Outcomes Interdisciplinary Research and Learning (MOIRL) projects, led by CACCE climate scientists, that engage them in climate change learning through participation in climate-related investigations.
- 3) Informal science educators. Working through the Florida Aquarium, we are reaching out to informal science providers in our region to assess their professional development needs on climate change, and work with them to identify effective communication strategies.
- 4) International: We seek close cooperation on climate education and communication with Spanish-speaking nations around the Caribbean, working with the CoHemis Consortium through UPR-M. We are also cooperating with the CARICOM Caribbean Community Climate Change Consortium, and the Inter-American Development Bank on climate communication efforts.