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March 14, 2011

U.S. Senator Bill Nelson
111 N. Adams Street
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Honorable Senator Bill Nelson:

Thank you for your position on the Gulf Oil Spill. We applaud your diligence in protecting our livelihood, environment and securing funds for those hardest hit by this disaster, while keeping BP accountable. As you have pointed out, this Gulf Oil Spill will have long term effects on our "natural" resources. With support from your leadership, the E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center, a 501(c)3 registered as Nokuse Education, Inc., along with the Panhandle Area Educational Consortium (PAEC), would like to propose that some of the restitution the BP Company promised to pay, be used to provide a "trust." This "trust" will be used to educate the leaders of tomorrow whom we, in partnership with you, can equip with a foundation for the future to sustain our environment while balancing the need for progress.

Our partnership with you is vital to the success of the "trust" to educate our leaders of tomorrow. Please champion the dedication of BP funds to the E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center and PAEC partnership in order to accomplish the goal of ensuring that funds promised are set aside for education. Long term restoration begins with education. We look forward to partnering with you, to ensure that the "Gulf Oil Spill" disaster becomes a learning opportunity for the generation tasked with finding and developing sustainable solutions. Our proposal for this "trust" is on the pages following this letter.

We are currently making arrangements to visit your office in Washington, D.C. to meet with you personally. We encourage you to visit the 49,000 acre greenway belt/ ecologically diverse wildlife corridor, known as Nokuse Planation and the E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center campus, a \$12 million (debt-free) facility, located between Bruce and Freeport, Florida. Mr. M.C. Davis is the visionary and founder of both. The Center would be a wonderful location for you to hold a regional "town hall" meeting and through the connections of the PAEC's Florida Education Channel, the meeting may be broadcast throughout Florida, the nation, and internationally, if desired. As an added feature, we have a fully furnished guest cottage and we would be honored to have you stay as our guest.

Thank you for your time and commitment to this issue.

Sincerely,

Christy Scally, Director
E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center
850-835-1824 (W)
850-217-2173 (C)
crscally@eowilsoncenter.org

Patrick L. McDaniel, Executive Director
Panhandle Area Educational Consortium
850-638-6131 ext. 2235 (W)
850-326-2482 (C)
mcdanielp@paec.org

TRUST IN A STEMULATING PROSPECT

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATH



SUCCESSFUL LONG TERM RESTORATION BEGINS WITH EDUCATION

CHRISTY SCALLY

The E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center

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PATRICK L. MCDANIEL

Panhandle Area Educational Consortium (PAEC)

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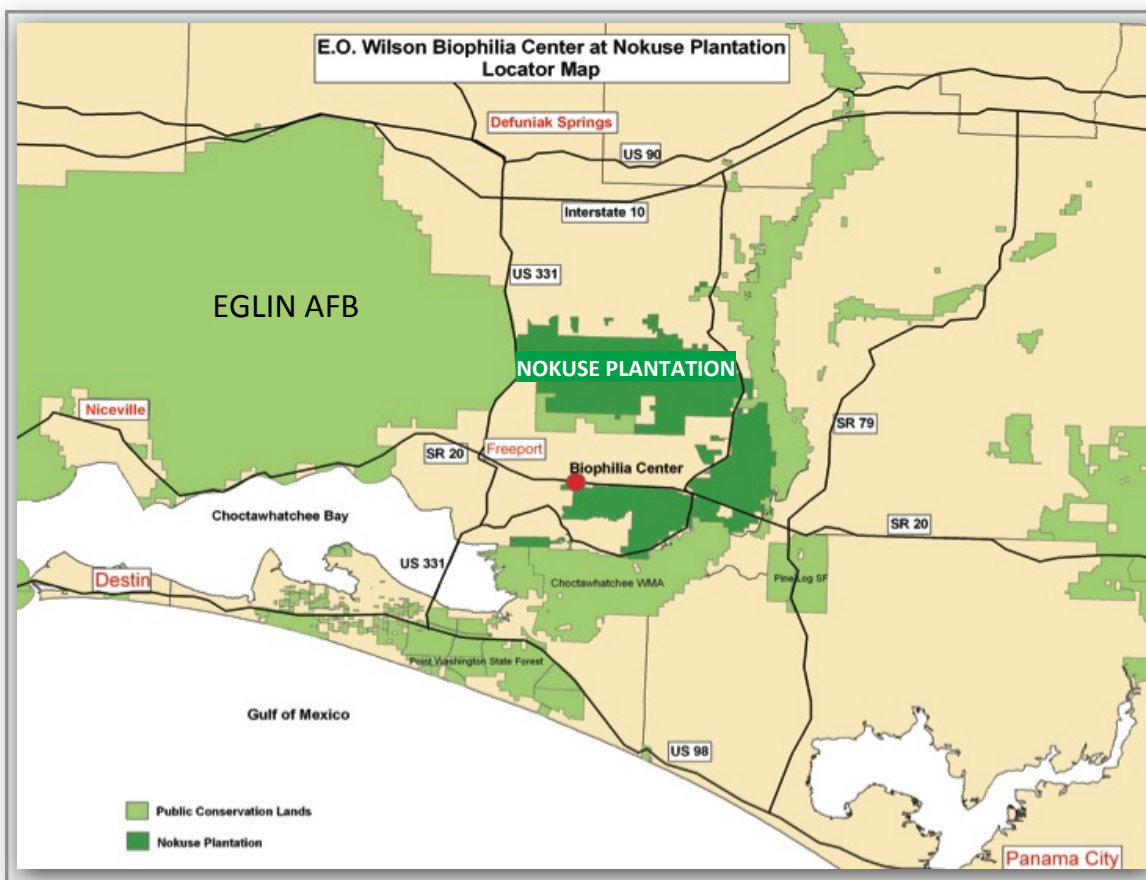
mcdanielp@paec.org

Proposal

The Gulf Oil Spill of 2010 will have long term effects on the Florida Panhandle's natural resources. The E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center, a 501(c)(3) registered as Nokuse Education, Inc., in partnership with the Panhandle Area Educational Consortium (PAEC) proposes that some of the restitution the BP Company promised to pay, be used to provide a "trust." This trust will be used to train the educators and students of today to become the leaders of tomorrow, equipped with the foundation to sustain our environment while balancing the need for progress.

About Us

For the purpose of conservation and environmental education, M.C. Davis purchased and has set aside a 49,000 acre greenway belt/ecologically diverse wildlife corridor, making him the largest private owner of conservation lands east of the Mississippi River. The E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center campus, a \$12 million (debt-free) facility, built by M.C. Davis is located between Bruce and Freeport, Florida on the 49,000 acre conservation lands named Nokuse Plantation. These lands are positioned in the middle of the oil spill disaster area.



The E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center educational curricula for 4th and 7th grade students from a catchment area of six County School Districts in the Florida Panhandle immerses students in hands-on inquiry experiences through our 15-core environmental education programs including an “Oil Spill Re-enactment and Clean-up Challenge.” Plans are in place to involve 10th graders and purposefully engage students from groups, typically under-represented in STEM careers (e.g., girls, minorities and low income students through a collaboration with Girls, Inc. of America and the Boys and Girls Clubs of America), in the Center’s educational programming. The Nokuse lands, the E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center campus and facilities, the curricula and future plans uniquely qualify the Center to deliver this “trust.”

Accomplishments

Today’s children are key to making sure we balance the needs of our environment with the demands of our economy. The Center’s educational programming expertly marries nature and technology to offer intriguing and thought-provoking personal STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) experiences that involve student interaction with the environment. As a result, students leave the Center with a deeper appreciation of biodiversity, conservation, and preservation. Students also learn how their efforts can impact the restoration of natural resources. As we end our second year of operation, we have challenged more than 10,000 students, investing in the generation tasked with finding and developing sustainable solutions. [LINK TO VIDEO](#)



Oil Spill Re-enactment and Clean-up Challenge



E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center Exhibit Hall



STEM in action on Nokuse Plantation

To quote Baba Dioum, “In the end we will conserve what we love, we will love what we understand, and we will understand only what we are taught.” This statement directly relates to the crucial connection between environmental education and the Gulf Oil Spill disaster.

Partnership

Our partnership with the PAEC is vital in establishing the “trust” to educate our leaders of today and tomorrow by providing the opportunity to extend our educational programs to a **global audience**. This can be easily achieved with:

- Satellite and webcasting seminars
- Professional learning opportunities for educators
- Hands-on lessons to more than 35,000 students directly, reaching an unlimited number globally
- Educational lesson plans and instruction based on research-evidenced, best practices, “Florida’s Next Generation Sunshine State Standards” that can be correlated to each of the fifty united states’ and all other countries’ educational standards
- Scientifically-based resources available to policy makers, community leaders and citizens

We ask that BP designate funds from those promised
“to make it right” in the amount of \$2 million, per year for 5 years,
to the E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center and PAEC partnership
(funds paid to Nokuse Education, Inc.)
in order to educate the leaders of today and tomorrow.

Successful long term restoration begins with education.



Christy Scally, Director
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Patrick L. McDaniel, Executive Director
Panhandle Area Educational Consortium
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mcdanielp@paec.org

THE PARTNERSHIP REQUESTS:

- The Honorable U.S. Senator Bill Nelson to champion the E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center and Panhandle Area Educational Consortium partnership, “Trust in a STEMulating Prospect.”
- Senator Nelson host a regional “town hall meeting” at the Center which can be broadcast live.
- BP designate funds, from those promised “to make it right,” in the amount of \$2 million per year for five years, to the E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center and PAEC partnership for the purpose of educating students and teachers.

PURPOSE OF THE “TRUST”:

- Providing institutes for educators and year-round programs directly impacting 35,000 students and an unlimited number of educators and students, nationally and internationally, via web-casting, equipping them with a foundation to sustain our environment, while balancing the need for progress.

THE E.O. WILSON BIOPHILIA CENTER’S ROLE IN THE “TRUST”:

- Provide students with hands-on inquiry experiences such as the “Oil Spill Re-enactment and Clean-up Challenge,” in addition to fourteen other core environmental education programs already offered.
- Include and specifically engage students from groups typically under-represented in STEM careers (e.g., girls, minorities and low income students through collaboration with Girls Inc. of America and The Boys and Girls Clubs of America).
- Ensure “STEM in Action” 250 days a year, 15 to 35 hours of specialized instruction a week per participant in our \$12 million (debt free) state-of-the-art science labs, international fiber optic theatre, classrooms and wildlife museum campus with access to 49,000 acres of trails and conservation land.
- Impact a minimum of 35,000 students in grades four, seven and ten from Walton, Bay, Washington, Okaloosa, Holmes and Leon Counties, and ensure teachers are trained to implement the curriculum.

THE PAEC’S ROLE IN THE “TRUST”:

- Produce video content, based on professional learning presentations, symposia, and other Biophilia-related educational opportunities.
- Disseminate project-related resources globally using current and future technologies.
- Broadcast and web-cast content resources making them available, not only to all educators and students, but to policy makers, community leaders, and citizens.
- Manage summer teacher institutes and during school year follow-up activities.
- Provide and facilitate online courses that complement and extend scientific presentations.
- Manage student symposia.
- Develop and maintain web pages and provide technical assistance to those who use the resources.

WHY THE “TRUST” IS IMPORTANT:

- The E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center is located in the communities affected by BP’s oil spill disaster.
- Our children are key to making sure future needs of our environment are balanced with the demands of our economy, and they make up the generation that will find and develop sustainable solutions.
- Successful long term restoration begins with education.
- Give BP the opportunity to make restitution through this partnership which has a far reaching and long lasting educational impact, allowing for something beneficial to come out of the disaster.

TRUST IN A STEMULATING PROSPECT

A REQUEST FOR \$2 MILLION PER YEAR FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS

E.O. WILSON BIOPHILIA CENTER PROJECT BUDGET

These costs will operate, maintain, and expand the E. O. Wilson Biophilia Center's expert science professionals, curriculum, transportation for a minimum of **7,000** students per year in grades four, seven, and ten. In addition, development of programs to engage under-represented STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) career student populations. Students and educators experiencing hands-on "STEM in Action" 250 days a year, 15-35 hours of specialized instruction a week per participant in our \$12 million (debt-free) state-of-the-art science labs, international fiber-optic theater classrooms and wildlife museum campus with access to 49,000 acres of trails and conservation land.

Biologist, Scientist, Wildlife Specialist, Certified Teachers, Curriculum Specialist, Salaries and Benefits	\$575,507.00
Maintenance, Repairs, Security, Transportation and Animal Care	\$371,473.00
Licenses, Technology Specialist, Legal and Professional Services	\$218,185.00
Communications, Information Technology and Utilities	\$88,600.00
Field, Classroom, Office, Curriculum, Exhibit-Supplies Materials and Equipment	\$213,035.00
Building, Program, Directors, Special Events, Liability Insurances	\$33,200.00
E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center Total per year	\$1,500,000.00

PANHANDLE AREA EDUCATIONAL CONSORTIUM 2011 BUDGET

These are costs necessary to offer seven days of professional learning opportunities for 75 teachers during the summer, engage 450 high school students from groups, under-represented in STEM careers, during three days during the school year, STEM scientists for summer professional learning and student symposia, development and facilitation of 10 online courses based on STEM scientist presentations, programming of online courses, Web-maintenance and page development, technical assistance for online course participants, and production of video content based on STEM scientist/experts presentations.

Educator Professional Learning – 7-day experience for 75 science teachers from Biophilia Center and/or PAEC catchment area – costs include teacher stipends, travel and workshop supplies.	\$153,065.00
Symposium experience for 450 high school students, from groups under-represented in STEM careers within Biophilia Center and/or PAEC catchment area – transportation and student materials	\$29,325.00
STEM Scientists/Experts - Professional learning presentations and curriculum development for summer presentations, student symposium presentations, online course content development for 10 courses, and travel costs – 14 scientist minimum	\$64,800.00
PAEC Personnel and Fringe Benefits – Professional consultants to manage summer teacher program and during school year follow-up, provide online course facilitation, manage student symposia; Web master and Web designer to program online courses, develop and maintain web pages and provide technical assistance to online course participants; support personnel to manage professional development attendance and completion, process stipends, contracts and contract payments, travel costs; Florida Education Channel personnel to produce video content based on professional learning, symposia, and other Biophilia-related presentations	\$167,234.66
Technology, Equipment, Licenses, and Server Maintenance	\$12,936.00
PAEC Personnel Travel Costs	\$7,500.00
PAEC Supplies and Materials – including printing	\$13,713.90
Florida Education Channel T.V. "Air-Related" Expenses	\$25,000.00
PAEC Administrative Costs @ 5.58%	\$26,425.44
Panhandle Area Educational Consortium Total per year	\$500,000.00
Project Budget per year	\$2,000,000.00
TOTAL FIVE-YEAR PROJECT BUDGET	\$10,000,000.00



MUSEUM OF COMPARATIVE ZOOLOGY

The Agassiz Museum

Edward O. Wilson University Professor Emeritus and Honorary Curator in Entomology
Harvard University MCZ 408 26 Oxford Street Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138-2902 USA
TEL: (617) 495-2315 FAX: (617) 495-1224 e-mail: ewilson@oeb.harvard.edu

4 May 2010

To Whom It May Concern

Subject: Nokuse Education, Inc., DBA, the E. O. Wilson Biophilia Center

I may be accused of being a bit biased, because of my name attached to the E. O. Wilson Biophilia Center, and my role as an informal advisor in its creation, but I can say objectively that of all the many field stations and other institutions with comparable programs I have visited around the country, this is the best.

The E. O. Wilson Biophilia Center has my esteem because it does the best job of presenting dramatically and accurately, through exhibits and interactive programs, the environment immediately around the rooms and auditorium in which the Center is located. Families and school classes can step out directly into the real habitats displayed, walk about, and then walk back in again, there to learn basic principles of ecology, land management, and conservation practice. It helps that the Florida panhandle, of which the Nokuse Plantation is typical in habitats, has by general consensus of biodiversity experts one of the richest, most diverse floras and faunas of North America. Inside the Center Buildings, teachers and learners—and families along as well—thus have plenty of incentive, not just because of its recreational value, to see how it all fits in, of learning the STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics).

I cannot imagine a better way to bring people, especially young people, into an appreciation of the natural world and to the relevance of STEM in understanding that world. I fully expect to see the E. O. Wilson Biophilia Center become a national (or even international) model, and I hope to remain connected with it as a visitor and advisor, at my own expense.

Sincerely,

Edward O. Wilson
University Research Professor
Harvard University



Washington County Schools

652 Third Street
Chipley, Florida 32428
(850) 638-6222
Fax (850) 638-6226

Dr. Sandra M. Cook
Superintendent of Schools

March 2, 2011

Senator Bill Nelson
Washington, D.C. Office
United States Senate
716 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bill Nelson:

I want to take this opportunity to express my support of the E. O. Wilson Biophilia Center, in Freeport. I urge your support to join in holding BP accountable by allocating funds to environmental education through the E. O. Wilson Biophilia Center in corroboration with the Panhandle Area Education Consortium (PAEC).

This center provides environmental education to schools in many Panhandle counties in the State of Florida. The oil spill has had major impact on the environment and this center allows students the opportunity to study and research this disaster. Students can learn the ecological impacts, the procedures for restoration, the preventative measures that should be taken and the innovative technology that can be developed to prevent future damage.

Another impact of the BP disaster has been students affected emotionally due to families losing businesses and jobs. The reality for our students will hopefully provide educational opportunities for students to address the task of finding solutions for future environmental disasters.

I strongly urge you to please see the importance of these programs and to support the E. O. Wilson Biophilia Center and at the same time hold BP accountable for the Gulf disaster.

Thank you for any support that you may provide in assisting in this important matter.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dr. Sandra M. Cook".

Dr. Sandra M. Cook,
Superintendent of Schools

SMC/ca

"Putting Children First"

Carlene H. Anderson
Superintendent of Schools



145 Park Street
DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435
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Fax 850.892.1191
www.walton.k12.fl.us

February 28, 2011

Senator Bill Nelson
Washington, D.C. Office
United States Senate
716 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Nelson:

As Superintendent of Walton County School District and Board Member of the Panhandle Area Education Consortium (PAEC) I am a strong advocate for promoting education in the Florida Panhandle. To increase the students' education, I knew we had to make learning applicable, that we had to provide project-based learning with real-world scenarios, and I also knew that students in Florida had low performance scores in science. As such, it was once my dream to increase student science knowledge through hands-on environmental learning with a focus on STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematic) subjects. This dream has become not only a reality, but it has exceeded my expectations with a public-private partnership with the E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center (a 501c3 registered as Nokuse Education, Inc).

The Deep Water Horizon Oil Spill of 2010 has tremendously impacted the economy of our county as many parents have suffered job losses and many patrons have had to discontinue donations. I have walked the halls of the schools and witnessed the emotional stresses these students have experienced in direct correlation with the oil spill. In addition, it is these same students who will have to deal with the future environmental ramifications from this oil spill.

It is with strong conviction that I urge BP to allocate oil spill retribution funds towards environmental education through the E.O Wilson Biophilia Center and the Panhandle Area Education Consortium so that the students of the Florida Panhandle and beyond may have the opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills to protect our natural resources. We not only have an opportunity, but a duty to allocate funds from this devastating event to invest in our future, our environment, and our children – our future scientists, teachers, politicians, and leaders in the corporate world. Please join me in holding BP responsible to invest in our future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carlene H. Anderson".

Carlene H. Anderson
Superintendent of Schools
Walton County School District

"Making All Decisions in the Best Interest of Students"

Mildred Wilkerson
District 1

Faye Leddon
District 2

Sharon Roberts
District 3

Mark D. Davis
District 4

Dennis Wallace
District 5



WILLIAM V. HUSFELT III

SUPERINTENDENT

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Board Members:

Joe Wayne Walker

District 1

Ryan Neves

District 2

Ginger Littleton

District 3

Jerry Register

District 4

Steve Moss

District 5

March 1, 2011

Senator Bill Nelson
US Court House Annex
111 North Adams Street
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Dear Senator Nelson:

On behalf of Bay District Schools and in cooperation with the Panhandle Area Education Consortium (PAEC), I am writing this letter in support of the E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center.

It has recently been brought to my attention that the E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center has developed a plan and curriculum to teach our students and train our teachers with regards to the recent oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. The impact of the oil spill, future prevention efforts, and the economic recovery are all extremely important efforts and I wholeheartedly support this initiative. It is certainly understood by all of us in our area that we did not ask for, nor do we want to face the problems that are occurring or that will rise in the future with the oil crisis. But, the fact is, we are right in the middle of it.

I applaud the 'get out in front' action of the E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center and hope that you will consider legislation and legally accountable actions to make those parties responsible for assisting in these educational efforts. This topic and educational benefits are a necessity for our students. Our students deserve it, our teachers need it, and our environment cannot survive without it.

In closing, this is not about blaming any corporation or government officials. It is about doing the right thing and doing it quickly. I am excited about what this project can do for our collective futures and how it can have such a positive impact on our communities. Please contact me should I be of any assistance in making this project the reality it so richly deserves.

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "W. Husfelt, III", is written over a horizontal line.

William V. Husfelt, III
Superintendent of Schools



MEMO: July 20, 2010

TO: MC Davis

FROM: George Crozier

RE: E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be "George Crozier", is written over the "FROM" and "RE" lines of the memo header.

I have been remiss in not writing to thank you for the personal tour of the new Center. My guests from the National Sea Grant Office were enormously impressed with the facilities and the entire concept of your effort. It was truly a rare opportunity and I do thank you for taking the time to show us around.

Despite the obvious quality and wonderful presentation, I feel compelled to comment that the curriculum format, content, and logistical arrangements are by far the most impressive feature - at least in my mind. In this era of "no child left behind" and the incredibly rigid constraints that have been forced on public education in our country what you have created is nothing short of miraculous!

The educational programs at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab are indeed highly regarded, but try as we might we have never figured out how to most effectively build on the foundation that we create through our residential and day trip programs at Dauphin Island. I simply cannot conceive of getting a class out of school all day for five days in a row. The scheduling logistics alone give me a headache.

Between the Center and Nokuse Plantation, you have created a new model of what I believe environmental education should be. Having been in this business for over 40 years, I can only say that my hat's off to you and your folks. Those coastal counties are lucky to have you as part of their community and the Florida panhandle is better off for your efforts.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

March 4, 2011

Molly Harrison
National Education Coordinator
NOAA Fisheries
1315 East West Hwy, Room 14251, Building SSMC3
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282

Dear Mrs. Harrison,

Averaging one hundred and seventy students each day, the E.O Wilson Biophilia Center is an exclusive facility that connects fourth, seventh, and tenth grade students to the environment through nature trails and interpretive exhibits while also incorporating Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) principles. The Biophilia Center strives to provide Florida's Next Generation Sunshine State Standards to students in surrounding counties to improve Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) scores and provide students with socially and economically relevant environmental issues.

Being a community directly affected by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, the Biophilia Center responded by creating an exhibit to demonstrate to students and educators how the oil spill devastated marine and coastal wildlife and the Gulf coast economy. Complementary components to this exhibit, that incorporate the Ocean Literacy Principles and also the specific responsibilities of each department within NOAA that provided assistance during the spill is an outreach tool for the community that is desperately needed. I am in full support of this proposal and believe that developing a partnership between NOAA Fisheries and the E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center for such an informative exhibit would exemplify to students the importance of environmental restoration and stewardship. Thank you for considering this proposal for the NOAA Fisheries internal education funding opportunity. Please feel free to contact me for additional discussion at (850) 234-6541 ext 203 or Guy.Davenport@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

Guy Davenport
Panama City Laboratory Director
NOAA Fisheries Southeast Fisheries Science Center

APPROVED BY:	
Author:	
Lab Director:	

