

Dear Academic Colleagues of the Gulf Coast Region:

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency and Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) cordially invite you to attend an upcoming co-sponsored workshop: *EPA/ORD's Grant Process: How it Works*, which will be held on December 9, 2010 on the FAMU campus, in Tallahassee, Florida. Representatives from the British Petroleum (BP) Corporation and the Gulf Alliance of Mexico will also participate in this event.

The Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico was one of the worst man-made environmental disasters our country has ever experienced. The oil spill has impacted the lives, jobs, and futures of millions of Gulf Coast residents and endangered the habitats and ecosystems of one of our nation's most valuable resources. Responding to this unprecedented disaster has revealed numerous research needs in the areas of oil spill response, remediation, and restoration. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will be separately soliciting competitive research grant applications (in the near future) from eligible organizations, including universities and colleges located in the Gulf Coast Region, to conduct much needed research that addresses the many gaps that have become apparent in dealing with this unprecedented disaster. In addition, BP will solicit research proposals for research projects under its own competitive process.

It is expected that some of the most innovative ideas to restore the Gulf and to protect the area from the effects of future oil spills will come from the local communities impacted by this catastrophe. EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson has made it clear that the plans to restore the Gulf must come from the people of the Gulf and be based on sound science and world class research. FAMU is committed to promoting scientific research that is both sound academically and responsive to the needs of local communities.

In order to facilitate the ability of eligible organizations, including those in the Gulf Coast Region, to apply for the future funding opportunities, EPA and FAMU are sponsoring this workshop to discuss oil spill related research needs and priorities, the general competition process, and the expected timelines for soliciting grant applications. In addition, during the workshop we will respond to questions and discuss other topics of interest to potential applicants. Workshop attendees will also have an opportunity to hear about BP's and the Gulf of Mexico Alliance's plans for research funding opportunities as well as to network with other researchers and students.

The workshop will begin at 10:00 a.m. and will adjourn at 3:00 p.m. It will be held **on the campus of Florida A & M University, 2400 Wahnish Way, Tallahassee, FL 32307**

Space will be limited at the workshop so you are encouraged to register as soon as possible. Registration will close on **Wednesday, December 8, 2010**. To register, please visit, <http://www.scgcorp.com/Reg4grantwkshp>.

The agenda and logistical information for the workshop are available on the registration website. In addition, there will be a Webcast established during this meeting so that participants who are unable to participate in person may do so via the internet. The link and log-in instructions will be available on the registration as well as U.S. EPA/NCER website ([www.epa.gov/NCER](http://www.epa.gov/NCER)).

We hope that you can be part of this important and informative workshop.

Sincerely,

Christopher Zarba  
Deputy Center Director, National Center for Environmental Research  
Office of Research and Development  
Environmental Protection Agency