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Coastal Research Institute Launches Today as a Partnership Between The Bay Foundation and Loyola Marymount University

LOS ANGELES (November 9, 2017) Today marks the launch of the [Coastal Research Institute \(CRI\)](#) at Loyola Marymount University (LMU), a new entity formed by The Bay Foundation (TBF) and Loyola Marymount University's (LMU) Frank R. Seaver College of Science and Engineering (SCSE). CRI will be lead by co-directors Tom Ford, Executive Director of TBF, and Dr. James Landry from LMU SCSE. CRI will engage LMU faculty, undergraduate and graduate students in hands-on approaches to research related to coastal resource management in Los Angeles.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency and the State of California recognized coastal Los Angeles as an estuary of national significance and established the Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program (SMBNEP) in 1988. Since 1990, TBF has played a central role in the SMBNEP as its host entity, managing and implementing the Bay Restoration Plan.

"The Bay Restoration Plan outlines the environmental issues facing coastal Los Angeles, which are also shared by billions of people around the world," says Ford. "It's an extensive list that includes water quality and supply, coastal flooding, the protection and restoration of wildlife and ecosystems, coastal access, public health, fisheries, and education.

"Through the institute, TBF and LMU are able to utilize the students, faculty and infrastructure at LMU to research and develop programs that achieve our goal of a better more sustainable environment. CRI easily doubles if not triples our ability to conduct great applied work, here in LA, while simultaneously providing experience and the skills needed by LMU students to be ready to work for a global community," Ford adds. "In short, we're investing in and educating our communities to better serve Los Angeles and the world."

"The CRI is a very exciting enterprise because it involves our faculty, students and staff in the local community working on important projects to restore and protect Santa Monica Bay. It's part of our mission at LMU," says Landry. "The CRI can serve as a model program for other EPA estuary programs to interact with universities to further the research that we need to better understand our watersheds and how to protect them."

lmu.edu/cri



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To disseminate the work performed by CRI to a broad audience, CRI will publish an annual proceedings titled *Urban Coast*. This online scientific journal will feature the work of the students, faculty, TBF, and other relevant studies. Every five years, these annual proceedings will be compiled and added to other work to form the *State of the Bay* report which comprehensively describes the condition of Santa Monica Bay, its watersheds and changes over time. A corresponding *State of the Bay* symposium will be held at LMU.

“We see the Coastal Research Institute becoming a national, and possibly international authority on coastal resource management,” says Tina Choe, dean of Seaver College. “Through the institute, we’ll have the opportunity to invite professionals from the field and technical scholars to study and research with CRI and contribute to better understanding our coastal resources. CRI will provide a forum for regional, national and possibly international discourse on coastal research.”

About Coastal Research Institute (<http://cse.lmu.edu/research/cri/>)

About The Bay Foundation

The Bay Foundation (TBF) is a 501(c) 3 non-profit environmental group founded in 1990 to restore and enhance the Santa Monica Bay and local coastal waters (from the LA-Ventura county line to the Palos Verdes Peninsula). The Bay Foundation is a partner in the Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program along with the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission and many other organizations. TBF works collaboratively with a broad group of stakeholders, including government agencies, industry, environmental groups, and scientists. TBF conducts research and mentors student interns and volunteers in conjunction with the Frank R. Seaver College of Science and Engineering through the Coastal Research Institute at Loyola Marymount University. (www.santamonibay.org)

About Loyola Marymount University

Loyola Marymount University, the University of Silicon Beach®, is ranked in the top 12 percent of higher education institutions nationally by The Wall Street Journal. Founded in 1911, LMU is a Catholic, Jesuit, and Marymount university with more than 6,100 undergraduate students and more than 3,000 graduate and law students. LMU offers 58 undergraduate majors and 53 minor programs, along with 46 master’s degree programs, one education doctorate, one juris doctorate, one doctorate of juridical science and 13 credential/authorization programs. LMU’s intercollegiate athletics teams compete in the West Coast Conference with 22 Division I and varsity sports.

LMU news and events are found at: www.lmu.edu/news.

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