

**PANEL SESSION: A NEW MODEL FOR COASTAL ADAPTATION USING CROSS-CULTURAL CONVERGENCE OF KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS**

Panelists:

Aranzazu Lascrain, NOAA Office for Coastal Management

Kristina Peterson, Lowlander Center

Brandy Bartholomew, Atakapa-Ishak/Chawasha Tribe of Grand Bayou Village

Theresa Dardar, Pointe au Chien Indian Tribe, President of Lowlander and Treasurer of First Peoples' Conservation Council

Daniel Wildcat, Haskell Indian Nations University

Bill Thomas, NOAA Office for Coastal Management

Deidre Peroff, Wisconsin Sea Grant

The Rising Voices, Changing Coasts Hub, funded by NSF and led by Haskell Indian Nations University, is creating space for the convergence of disciplines and epistemologies where Indigenous knowledge-holders from diverse coastal regions work with university-trained Earth system scientists and students to address coastal hazards affecting their communities. As a significant part of the growing recognition that traditional ecological and Indigenous knowledges must be a part of the science being done regarding global climate change. Through the convergence of these knowledges, the Hub proposes that new and improved ways to address the severe climate challenges affecting Indigenous communities will emerge, leading to better science and outcomes.

In addition to an overview of the Hub, a group of physical and social scientists and Indigenous knowledge holders will illustrate how Indigenous knowledge and Earth Sciences converge through storytelling, cultural and scientific language, and lived experiences, testing how these distinct frameworks of data and knowledge can co-inform and help one another in solving pressing climate issues in 4 coastal regions whose cultural resources and ecosystems are being devastated by climate change - Alaska, Hawai'i, Puerto Rico, and Louisiana.

A case study, "**Backfilling Canals: Lessons being Learned from and with Native Communities in the Bayous of Louisiana,**" will describe how Tribes in the are of the fastest loss homelands are implementing adaptation strategies to live with the changes. The resolve of staying in place and adaptation is guiding others to think more holistically about the impacts of these multiple assaults on their ancestral lands

Finally, participants will be guided through a storytelling exercises: "Think with their hearts" as a way to reflect on why they care about the cultures and ecosystems they are working to protect and "Thinking like islands," using stories, proverbs and words to provide a deeper understanding of these cultures.