



October 27, 2025

TO: Dr. Randal O'Brien

FROM: Dr. Susan Jackson

SUBJECT: GCCISD AWARDED – ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY FOR COMMUNITY RESILIENCE GRANT AND STAKEHOLDER RECOGNITION

I am pleased to share that Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District has been selected as one of only six recipients across the Gulf States to receive funding from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's Gulf Research Program (GRP) in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Environmental Literacy Program. Our awarded project, *Empowering Youth for Urban Resilience: Hurricane and Stormwater Solutions in Baytown, Texas* has received a three-year grant totaling \$690,000.

This innovative initiative will equip STEM Academy and Maritime students with the skills and tools to investigate local flooding and stormwater challenges through data analysis, fieldwork, and geographic information systems (GIS). Students will collaborate with partners including Texas A&M University at Galveston, City of Baytown, the Baytown Wetlands Center, ExxonMobil, and Lee College to create meaningful, real-world solutions for our community.

Key deliverables of the project include:

- Development of public service announcements and an interactive community resilience dashboard
- Organization of a student-led Urban Resilience Summit
- Distribution of 50 - \$1,000 student scholarships to recognize civic engagement, peer leadership, and public presentation excellence

This project exemplifies Goose Creek CISD's commitment to integrating environmental literacy, STEM learning, and civic responsibility into secondary education. It not only enhances student career readiness but also strengthens Baytown's preparedness and resilience to flooding and storm impacts. The GRP and NOAA partnership represents a \$4 million investment supporting six place-based educational projects across Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida. Each project empowers local communities to connect science, the environment, and civic engagement for a more resilient Gulf Coast.

To celebrate this outstanding national recognition and awarded grant, we would like to honor the following key stakeholders for their leadership and partnership in securing and supporting this grant:

- **City of Baytown:** Mayor Charles Johnson
- **The Baytown Wetlands Center:** Tracey Prothro
- **ExxonMobil:** Connie Tilton
- **Texas A&M University at Galveston:** Dr. Dini Adyasari
- **Lee College:** Dr. Priscilla Sanchez
- **University of Houston Clear Lake:** Dr. Michelle Peters
- **Goose Creek CISD:** Richard Clem, Dr. Susan Jackson, Ginger McKay, Leia Miller, Cameron Jackson