



CERF 2025

9–13 November 2025 / Richmond, Virginia

CERF 2025 DESIGN COMPETITION EAST COAST

The CERF 2025 Design Competition is a forward-facing initiative to inspire students and faculty across disciplines to work together in proposing design solutions and innovative strategies to make our coastal environments more resilient in the face of coastal impacts of climate change. The Design Competition is also intended as a complementary way in which CERF can collaborate with local communities to problem solve together around pressing challenges. All design proposals for the 2025 Design Competition will have a focus on the Chesapeake Bay area of **Galesville, Maryland**.

SUBMIT DESIGN TEAM PROPOSALS AT: [CONFERENCE.CERF.SCIENCE/COASTAL-DESIGN-COMPETITION](https://conference.cerf.science/coastal-design-competition)

OBJECTIVES

- 1) Promote coastal resilience and adaptation by designing systems and solutions that reduce vulnerability of coastal communities
- 2) Utilize that research to meet or respond to public interests or needs, showing design solutions that increase the research “impact” or relevance; and how actions affect research by showing design solutions using interdisciplinary techniques
- 3) Engage in problem-solving that elevates the voices and needs of community members in a collaborative, co-production model.

SUBMISSIONS

The request for submissions will emphasize data-driven design and actionable plans that work with and for community priorities. Faculty-student teams may partner with A&E firms, but research and design must be faculty-led. Submissions are welcome from teams from across the US. Connections with underrepresented groups are encouraged along with diverse teams and thoughtful inclusion of regional Minority Serving Institutions. Teams will have access to informational webinars and site documentation. Projects will be displayed at the conference and publicized by the sponsors.

WHAT IS CERF?

The Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation, is a multidisciplinary organization of individuals who study and manage the structure and functions of estuaries and the effects of human activities on these environments. CERF members are dedicated to advancing human understanding and appreciation of the Earth’s estuaries and coasts, to the wise use and management of these environments and to making the results of their research and management actions available to their colleagues and to the public.

PRIZES

Prizes are awarded to the winning teams and the faculty sponsors.

TIMELINE

Teams Research and Design: January - October 2025 (Spring, Summer, Fall Semesters, or Quarters)

Team Registration: August 2025

Design Proposals Submitted: October 2025

Final Competition Presentation: 9-13 November 2025 at the CERF Conference - Teams of up to 5 students invited for the final competition will receive travel support for the conference, including registration, travel & lodging.

COMPETITION CO-CHAIRS

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