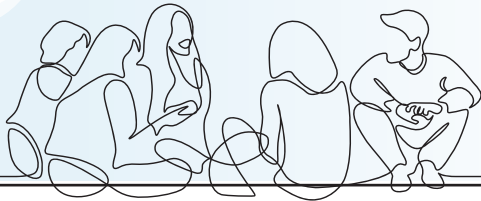




Yet Another Reason to be a
MARGARET A. DAVIDSON FELLOW



ADVANCING COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH

“Works well with others” could be said about any participant in the Margaret A. Davidson Fellowship, as this approach represents one of the program’s basic tenets. But this is more than a “be nice” kind of thing. The fellowship program emphasizes the importance of cross-discipline, collaborative research projects in conjunction with scientists, managers, communities, and others. Many research projects are funded via the reserve system’s competitive *Science Collaborative* process, which, as the name suggests, stresses collaboration.

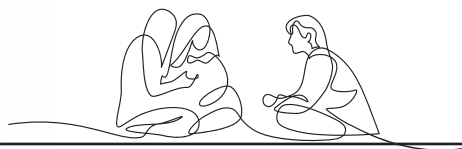
Davidson Fellows receive formal training in collaborative research and have many opportunities to practice and refine their skills. These techniques and approaches also cover working with communities and people who may not have been included in past efforts. The goal is to hear, appreciate, and serve as many voices and perspectives as possible. Let’s learn more from some of our fellows.



Philip Souza, Texas

Mission-Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve

Philip collaborated with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, researchers at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi’s Harte Research Institute, and the Nature Conservancy to explore relationships between acoustic monitoring measures and physical sampling efforts in the Mission-Aransas estuary. The results of his project showed that passive acoustic monitoring can provide valuable insight for fish spawning activity and oyster reef communities. Philip also developed an education lesson plan for elementary and middle school students to teach them why fish make sounds and that used hands-on exercises to understand the impacts of excessive noise from human activities on estuary species.



**National Estuarine Research Reserves
Margaret A. Davidson Fellowship**

coast.noaa.gov/nerrs/research/davidson-fellowship.html



Anna Lowien, New Hampshire

Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

Anna’s fellowship project sparked an idea to submit two grant proposals to the research reserves’ Science Collaborative competition. One of the proposals was awarded \$500,000, over a three-year period, to study water quality. Anna is actively managing the project, which includes collaborations between scientists and regional decision makers from municipalities in the watershed.



Nancy Torres, California

Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve

Nancy dedicated a significant portion of her time to the development of new community partnerships and expanding the DEIJA (diversity, equity, inclusion, justice, and access) efforts at this research reserve. She served as a student board member for the SoCal Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry, was featured in the reserve’s “Latinos in Conservation” week to share her personal story, and led a discussion among the fellowship cohort to learn about environmental justice and how to incorporate this lens and action into their research.



Haley Kujawa, Ohio

Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve

Haley has involved end users from the very beginning of this fellowship project, which aims to build a user-oriented management tool to assess hydrology and water quality to inform climate change adaptation measures. The end goal for this project is to transfer the tool to the end users to employ and maintain.



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