

17 February 2025

Dear Colleagues,

It is with great honor that I invite you to join us in celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Florida Coastal Everglades Long Term Ecological Research (FCE-LTER) Program! Our program began on May 1, 2000, and has continued as one of 27 LTER sites in the US LTER Network funded by the US National Science Foundation.

The research we conduct is fundamental to understanding how coastal ecosystems respond, adapt, and develop following disturbances and their legacies. These many legacies include: hydrologic modifications that transformed South Florida and the historic hydrology of the Everglades, the many restoration projects of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan that collectively represent the world's largest restoration effort ever attempted, saltwater intrusion from rising sea levels, increasing intensity of hurricanes, natural and prescribed fires, and urban and agricultural land use changes that continue to reshape our South Florida landscape. Despite all of these changes, the FCE-LTER has been an enduring, thriving scientific community, based at Florida International University, but including local, state, federal, and international partnerships.

As we reflect on the past 25 years of our program, it is evident that the people of the FCE-LTER have made us a supportive and collaborative community that takes risks, supports new ideas and leaders, and provides encouragement. The human legacies of collaboration are what has made possible our program's endurance.

Please RSVP for the Florida Coastal Everglades LTER 25th Anniversary Reception and the All Scientists' Meeting by completing the [registration form for both events](#). Please see the [FCE LTER All Scientists' Meeting website](#) for additional information and updates about both events.

Schedule

April 30: FCE LTER 25th Anniversary Reception – April 30

5:00 - 6:30PM Food & Beverage Reception: *Reconnect with colleagues and friends*

6:30 - 7:30PM FCE Reflective Words: *Listen to brief stories and reflections shared from FCE alumni and leaders*

7:30 - 8:00PM 25th Anniversary Commemorative Video: *Celebrate the people and science of the FCE-LTER*

May 1-2: [Tentative agenda for the FCE LTER All Scientists' Meeting](#)

More information: https://fcelter.fiu.edu/about/meetings/2025_fce_asm/

FCE Milestones Story Board

Please add a memory and/or a milestone that stands out for you as an important part of FCE's history and community. Access our Google Slideshow [here](#).

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Let us celebrate our history, our future, and one another! See you on **April 30 from 5-8PM** in the [Garden House at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden](#).

Sincerely,



Dr. John S. Kominoski
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