

Sea Grant Postcard from the Field



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Building the Neighborhood of the Future

Virginia Sea Grant brings together student architects, engineers and marine scientists to combat coastal flooding



"You can't just throw one solution at the problem."

- Ashley Montgomery, architecture student and VA Sea Grant fellow



Building the Neighborhood of the Future

In Hampton Roads, a region of coastal Virginia with the highest rate of sea level rise on the Atlantic Coast, communities are increasingly faced with decisions about [how to respond to more severe and frequent flooding](#).

Ashley Montgomery, a [Virginia Sea Grant](#) Future Resilience Leader, is an architecture student in the [Sea Level Rise Program](#) at [Hampton University](#) and a student leader in the Coastal Community Design Collaborative, a cross-university and cross-disciplinary group working toward sea level rise mitigation. The program is a collaborative effort that works with neighborhoods, especially in Norfolk, to develop strategies to address flooding and urban design issues.

The program's blend of creativity and feasibility is a key result of the collaboration between engineers, architects, and marine scientists.

"We believe firmly that no one has all the answers, so we spend a lot of time relying on our friends with knowledge in one area or another," says [Mason Andrews](#), an associate professor of architecture at Hampton University and a co-founder of the Coastal Community Design Collaborative. "The more voices get heard, the better the results."

"That's an important thing, because we're in the boat we're in, so we all need to get our paddles in the water working together," Andrews says.

[Original story here](#)

[Learn more about Virginia Sea Grant's work in community resilience](#)

*** Heading back to school? Check out the tag #BackToSchoolNOAA on social media for stories of how Sea Grant and other NOAA offices are involved in classrooms across the country!

Image description: Three images. Clockwise from left to right: A car on a flooded street in Norfolk following Superstorm Sandy in 2012 (Credit: AP Photo / Steve Helber); Hampton University architecture student and Virginia Sea Grant research fellow Ashley Montgomery works on a project while at the architecture building located on HU's campus (Credit: Aileen Devlin / Virginia Sea Grant); Montgomery discusses being a part of the Sea Level Rise Program (Credit: Aileen Devlin / Virginia Sea Grant).

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