

Mississippi Blue Economy Pathways



Launched in 2022, **GenSea** combats brain drain in Mississippi by introducing students and teachers to the vast array of STEM career opportunities along the Gulf Coast through a three-pronged approach:

- **Field Trips**
- **Summer Internships**
- **Educator Outreach**

2,000 Explored Coastal Careers in Two Years!

To dream it, students first have to see it. Our team takes high school classes on field trips to labs and workspaces at USM and a dozen partners across the three coastal counties. Groups come from near and far (see map on back) to experience the blue economy through our program.



HIGH SCHOOL FIELD TRIPS

For the past two summers, 34 high school students worked in blue economy internships in aquaculture, computer modeling, fisheries ecology, ecotoxicology, hydrography, marine geology, ocean engineering, and science communication. Please contact us if your industry is interested in hosting 2024 summer interns.



SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

Teachers, administrators, counselors, and career coaches are full partners in sharing the good news about blue economy opportunities. Each summer GenSea hosts educators from across Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana to spend three packed days learning about coastal careers.



EDUCATOR OUTREACH

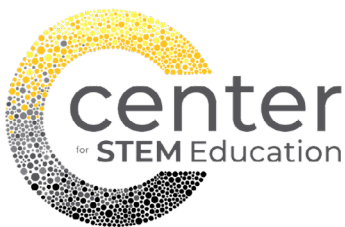
**Coming Fall
2023...**

650+ Students

24 Events

16 Partners

Thanks to the
**Robert M. Hearin
Support Foundation**



**THE UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI**

usm-gensea.org



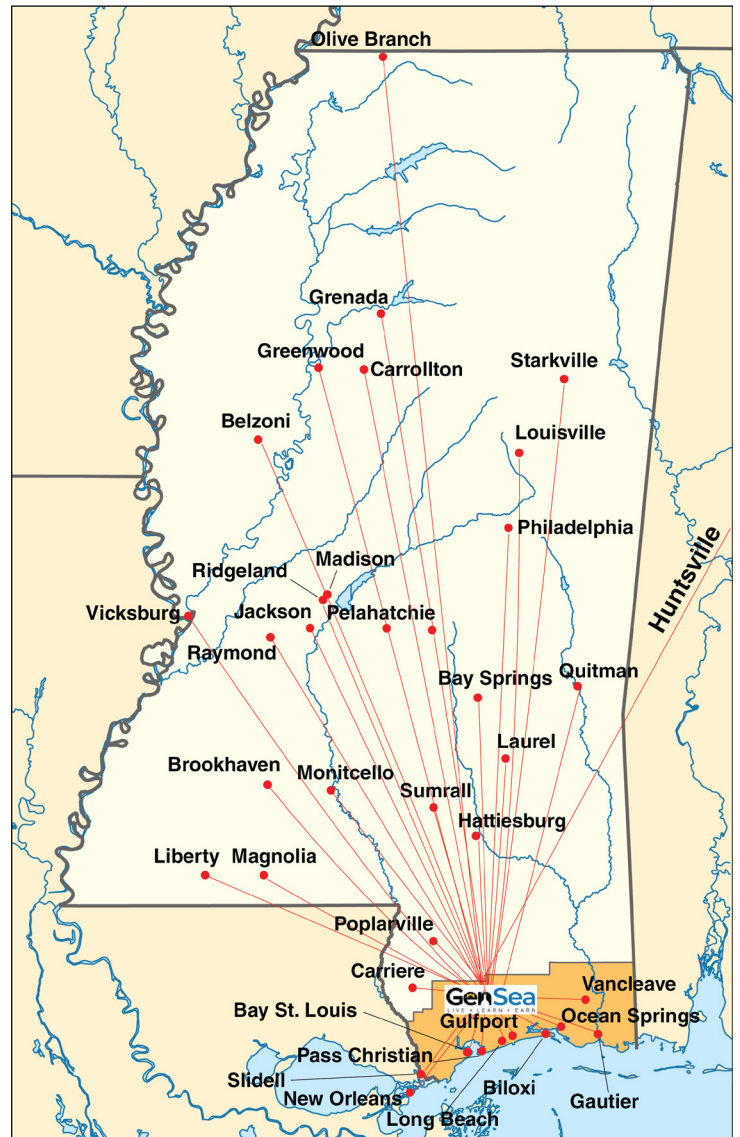
"It was great to see all the jobs we have on the coast. I thought I'd have to leave my home to pursue my dreams but maybe not."

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT
OCEAN SPRINGS

Brain Drain and the Blue Economy

Mississippi continually faces a loss of homegrown talent commonly referred to as brain drain. Over the past decade, Mississippi saw one of the sharpest decreases in college-educated Millennials in the United States.^{1,2} According to the Office of the State Auditor³, nearly 50% of public university graduates leave the state within three years. Population loss of this magnitude has severe economic consequences, with a cumulative \$1.4 billion in total income traveling with the young person to other states.⁴

The Mississippi Development Authority reports that the blue economy sector in Mississippi consists of more than 4,200 companies, who employ more than 74,400 workers and fund over 30% of the coastal economy.⁵ Moreover, blue economy jobs come in a variety that appeals to just about everyone, whether working on or by the sea, developing new technology for exploration, or using computers to make data available to all in new and interesting ways. GenSea wants to link young people with these exciting coastal careers to plug the drain of Mississippi's best and brightest.



References

1. Smith, S. G. (2018). Brain Drain in Mississippi: Why Some of the State's Best and Brightest are Leaving (Doctoral dissertation, The University of Mississippi).
2. Maciag, M. (22 June 2017). States Where Each Generation of America Is Growing, Declining. Retrieved from HYPERLINK "<https://www.governing.com/archive/gov-state-population-changes-by-%20generation-census.html>" <https://www.governing.com/archive/gov-state-population-changes-by-generation-census.html>.
3. Mississippi Office of the State Auditor. (April. 2022). Money Down the Brain Drain: Are Taxpayers Getting Their Money's Worth? [Special Report]. https://www.osa.ms.gov/documents/Special_Reports/Brain%20Drain%20Report.pdf
4. McGraw, J., White, N., Kirby-McLemore, J., & William Winter Institute. (2017, December 23). New Census data, Same old story: People keep leaving Mississippi - Jake McGraw. Rethink Mississippi. Retrieved February 13, 2023, from <http://rethinkms.org/2017/12/21/new-census-data-ol-story-people-keep-leaving-mississippi/>
5. Blue Economy. Mighty Mississippi. (2023, April 4). <https://mississippi.org/blue-economy>

GenSea Partners

GenSea now boasts over 16 blue economy career partners outside of USM's School of Ocean Science and Engineering, including the following:

- Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
- Gulf Islands National Seashore after Grand Bay NERR
- Ingalls Shipbuilding
- Mississippi Aviation Classification Repair Activity Depot
- MS Shipbuilding & Maritime Center
- NASA
- National Weather Service's National Data Buoy Center
- NAVY Oceanographic Command
- NOAA Fisheries
- Ocean Aero, Inc.
- Pascagoula River Audubon Center
- Port of Gulfport

**JOIN US
TODAY!**