

July 7, 2010

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# Preventing Future Disasters: Researchers to Participate in Statewide Gulf Project

**In an effort to prevent future environmental and economic disasters, Texas Tech has teamed up with other universities and state officials in the Gulf Project.**

Written by [Chris Cook](#)

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Throughout this project, researchers will continue their efforts to understand the environmental chemistry of oil and the ecotoxicological impact of the current Gulf crisis.

Texas Tech will join several other state universities in a collaborative and intensive research effort to help prevent deep sea drilling accidents and better prepare the state for future environmental and economic disasters, announced July 6 by Texas Gov. Rick Perry at the Johnson Space Center in Clear Lake, Texas.

"Texas Tech appreciates the governor's foresight with establishing this collaborative effort," said Chancellor Kent Hance. "We appreciate the opportunity for Texas Tech to participate."

The Gulf Project is a coalition of energy and environmental scientists, policy experts, academic researchers, private sector research scientists and state officials. In addition to Texas Tech, the University of Texas, Texas A&M University, the University of Houston, Rice University and Southern Methodist University will

participate. The Research Partnership to Secure Energy for America ([RPSEA](#)), the [Texas General Land Office](#) and the [Texas Railroad Commission](#) also are participating in the effort.

At Texas Tech, more than 25 scientists have dedicated themselves to understanding the science of the oil spill from an ecotoxicological standpoint. Researchers are studying the environmental chemistry of the oil and testing to discover the oil's impact on Gulf wildlife. Other researchers are determining the oil's impact on bottlenose dolphins as well as endangered sea turtles and sperm whales, and have discovered a remediation system using nonwoven cotton for absorbing the oil.

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