



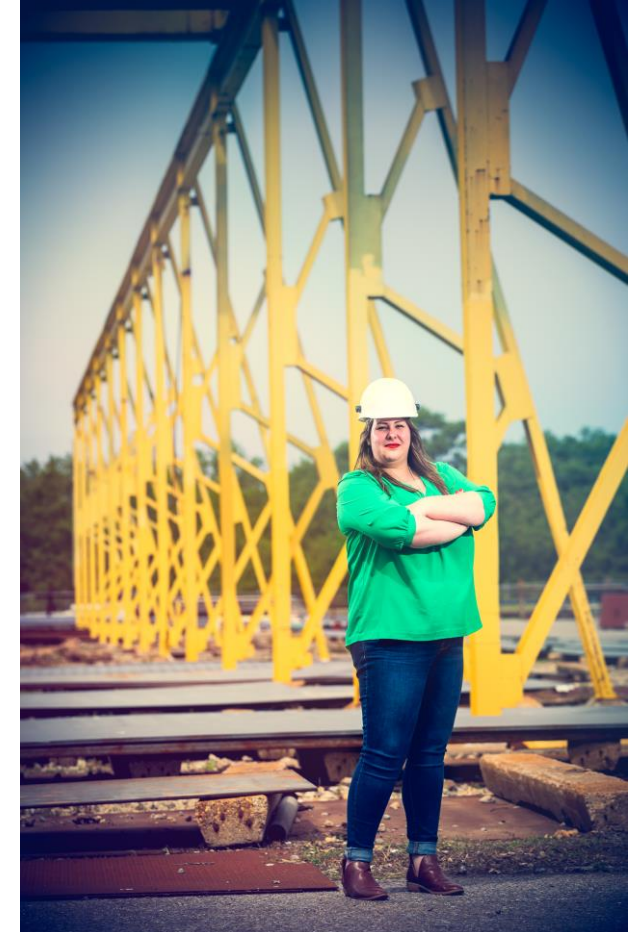
P O R T
SECURITY SUMMIT
Port of Gulfport, Mississippi

Mississippi's Blue Economy

Moderator: Bill Cork, Chief Economic Development Officer
Mississippi Development Authority

Mississippi's Blue Economy

- One of the strongest in America, it combines traditional maritime industries like shipbuilding, fishing and seafood processing with growing coastal tourism, advanced technology and business and professional services
- Mississippi Gulf Coast boasts the nation's third highest concentration of Blue Economy jobs
- Between 2018 and 2020, Blue Economy industries averaged nearly \$10 billion in gross regional product
- In 2021, Mississippi's Blue Economy consisted of more than 4,200 companies employing a total of more than 74,400 workers



Halter Marine, Pascagoula, MS

Mississippi's Blue Economy



- Mississippi is preparing skilled labor market to meet needs of Blue Economy companies on the Mississippi Gulf Coast
- Additionally, Mississippi Gulf Coast offers access to major R&D assets in aerospace, defense, aquaculture, oceanography and other Blue Economy fields
- University of Southern Mississippi's Gulf Blue Initiative launches the world-class ocean assets as a global hub for blue technology and economic growth
- The Blue Economy Innovation District in downtown Gulfport offers laboratory and fabrication space dedicated to incubating rising blue technology ventures and partnerships in six clusters: uncrewed maritime systems, precision aquaculture, sea-space systems, ocean-friendly plastics, smart ports and coastal data

Mississippi's Blue Economy Panelists

Mayor Billy Hewes, City of Gulfport: Gulfport Innovation District



Dr. Kelly Lucas, University of Southern Mississippi:
Ocean Enterprise Facility



Laurie Jugan, Mississippi Enterprise for Technology:
Blue Economy Corridor/Stennis Space Center Hub



Kevin Decker, Ocean Aero





Mayor Billy Hewes

City of Gulfport

Gulfport Innovation District

The Blue Economy in Gulfport

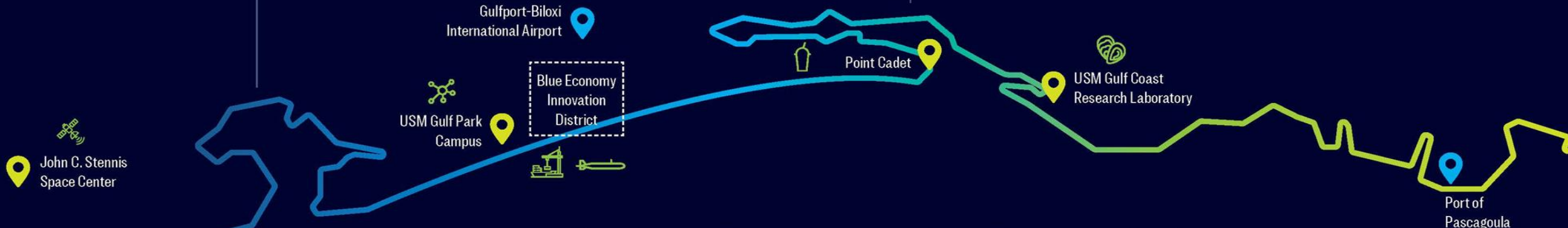
Supporting smart new companies and attracting a highly technical workforce will bring big ideas out of the blue to Gulfport and beyond.

- Capitalize on existing, world-class ocean research capabilities
- Promote the unique qualities of the Mississippi Gulf Coast to encourage relocation of talent and industry
- Expanding our economic development and workforce development initiatives
- Form a cooperative of business, government, and education to accelerate innovation in ocean-related technologies
- Connect entrepreneurs and startups with government agencies and capital investments

HANCOCK COUNTY

HARRISON COUNTY

JACKSON COUNTY



GULF OF MEXICO

Blue Economy Innovation District

- Gulf & Ship Island Building
- Port of Gulfport
- USM Marine Research Center
- Mississippi Aquarium
- Roger F. Wicker Center for Ocean Enterprise (opening 2022)

- THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI
- OTHER EXISTING INVESTMENTS IN COASTAL MISSISSIPPI

- Uncrewed Maritime Systems
- Precision Aquaculture
- Sea-space Systems
- Ocean-friendly Plastics
- Smart Ports
- Coastal Data

Shoreline Mileage Source: NOAA Office for Coastal Management

Gulf Blue Partnerships





High-Tech
Jobs

\$4.65 million

Corporate
Investment

Creating quality jobs while diversifying the local workforce and recruiting talent and new citizens to Coastal Mississippi



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTHERN
MISSISSIPPI®



Dr. Kelly Lucas

University of Southern Mississippi

Roger F. Wicker Center for Ocean Enterprise

Roger F. Wicker Center for Ocean Enterprise

A comprehensive research and development partnership program focused on uncrewed maritime systems and blue technology innovation. This program provides the facilities, equipment, access, support and expertise to advance new technologies to the market.

- Roger F. Wicker Center for Ocean Enterprise (OE Bldg)
- Marine Research Center (MRC)
- Water Access
 - R/V Gilbert R. Mason
 - 2, 200ft + NOAA Vessels
 - Short term pier space for an additional 6 vessels < 45ft
- USM's Instrumented Marine Site (CubeNet)



Day Pier/
Short-
term Pier

RFWCOE

○ Marine Research Center

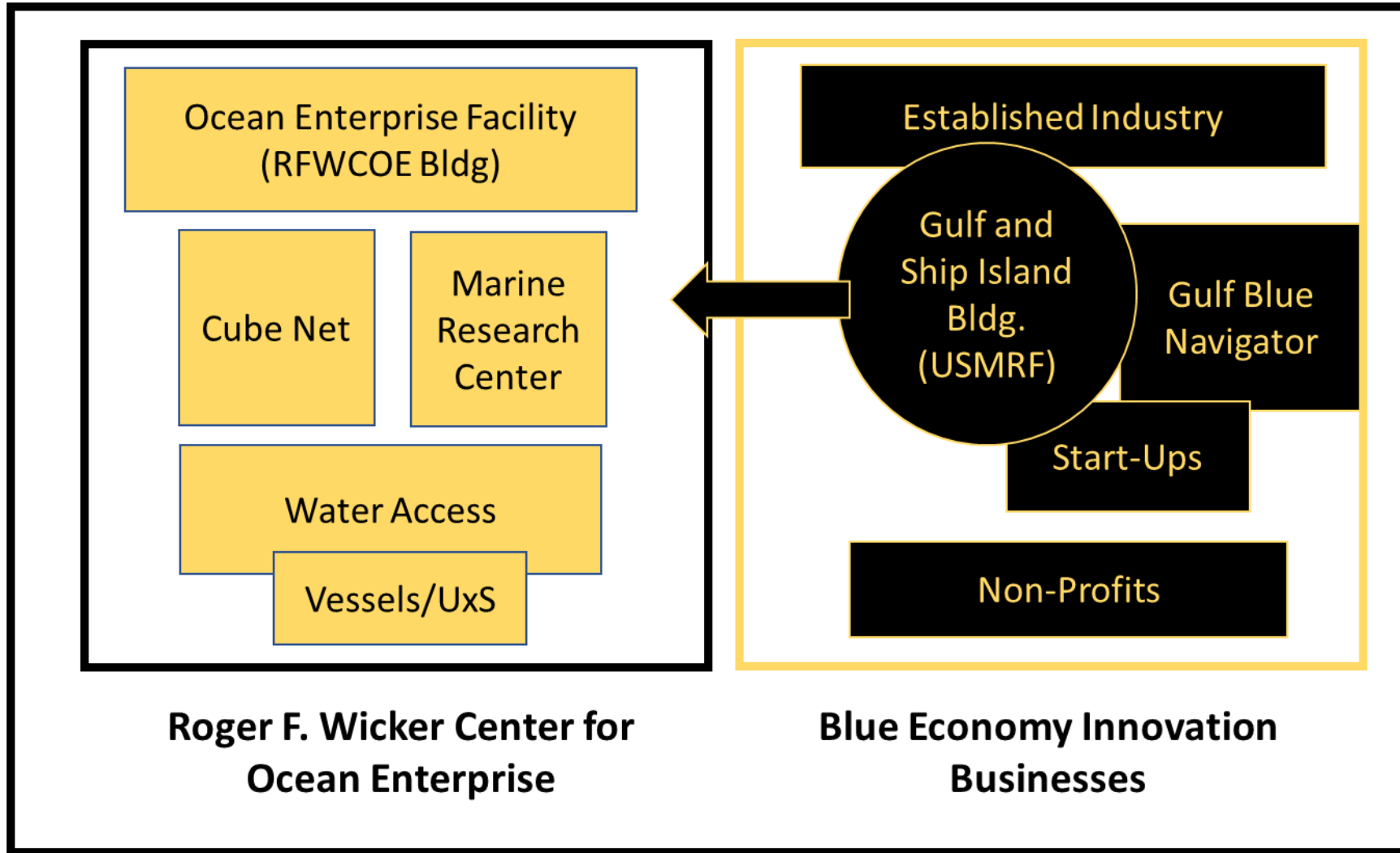
▭ Deep Water Wharf

○ Boat Launch

Roger F. Wicker Center for Ocean Enterprise

- Shared engineering space for Public-Private Partnerships (PPP)
- Shared classroom and conferencing space
- Maintenance and repair facilities
- Docking for large uncrewed surface and subsurface vehicles with capacity to support crane and drive-on tractor-trailer
- Command and control center for real-time mission support
- Climate-controlled equipment warehousing
- Prototyping access
- CubeNet access





Programming and Support



Laurie Jugan
Mississippi Enterprise for Technology
Blue Economy Corridor/Stennis Space Center Hub

Stennis Space Center and the Blue Economy



- Location of Stennis very dependent on access to the Intracoastal Waterway
 - Transport of fuel tanks/engines and rockets for testing
 - 66M gallons of water needed to cool rocket engine testing infrastructure
- Federal City created in the late '70s
 - The Navy, NOAA, USGS and other agencies with marine-related missions
 - Largest concentration of oceanographers and hydrographers in the world

Stennis Blue Economy

Federal agencies supporting marine-based mission and/or research:

- Operational Navy
- NOAA's National Data Buoy Center
- US Geological Survey
- Naval Research Laboratory
- NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information
- Numerous prime contractors and subcontractors
- USM's Division of Marine Science and Hydrographic Research Science Center and Center for Gulf Studies

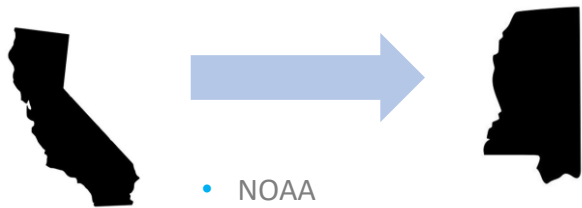
Large marine-focused companies:/prime contractors

- General Dynamics
- Leidos
- Lockheed Martin
- Northrop Grumman
- Pacific Architects and Engineers (PAE)
- Peraton
- Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC)
- Teledyne Marine
- PLUS an additional 36+ small companies

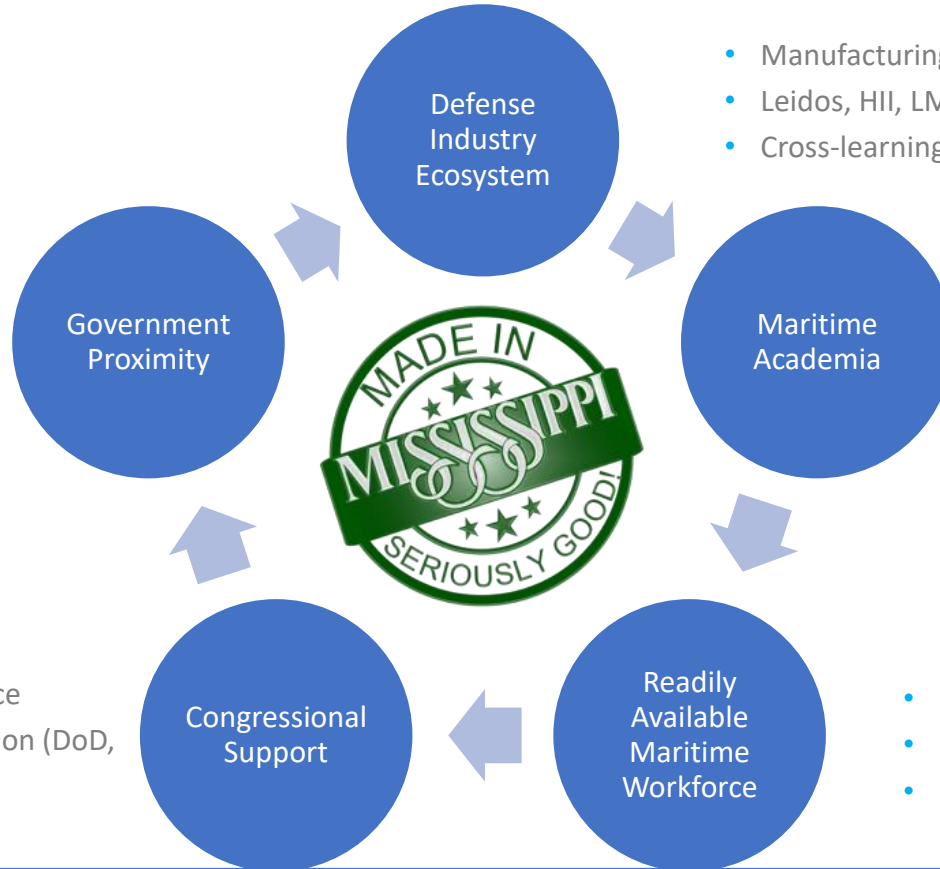


Kevin Decker
Ocean Aero

WHY OCEAN AERO IN MISSISSIPPI'S GULF COAST?



- NOAA
- NRL; Stennis,
- Coast Guard / DHS



- Manufacturing in composites, shipbuilding, & drones
- Leidos, HII, LMCO, General Atomics, etc.
- Cross-learning, networking, ease of working upside

- USM researchers and infrastructure
- USM state-of-the-art testing capability
- Other MS colleges & universities in proximity

- Sitting senators supportive of maritime space
- Multiple agencies supported by MS delegation (DoD, DHS, NOAA, etc)

- Workforce pull tailored to maritime industry
- Colleges with work programs
- Production & professional workforce availability

A growing blue economy epicenter attractive to enabling fast traction for maritime innovation. A business accelerator.

MISSISSIPPI RELOCATION INCENTIVES

Based on assumptions of 45 hires to MS over next 2 years + \$4.6MM building improvements, equipment, furnishings

\$

Relocation of Equipment & Leasehold Improvements

- Used for permanent (immovable) improvements
- To be applied as down-payment (10%) on Gulfport Port Building improvements

Starts in 2021

\$

Workforce Development / 'On the Job Training'

- 50% offset of salary during 'training period' of MS hires
- Can also be applied against training-related travel costs

Starts in 2021

\$\$

Income, Sales and Property Tax Rebates

- 2.5% rebate on 5.0% income tax for company for 5-years
- 70% decrease to property tax on building impr. For 10-years

Starts in 2022

\$\$\$

Employee Withholding Tax Rebate

- 4% Salary rebate on withholding tax for MS hires
- Need to demonstrate a 12-month maintenance of hiring levels before rebates start

Starts in 2023

29% total benefit over the first 3 years ('21-'23). Additional 71% benefit over years 4-12 ('24-'32)

... **MIGHTY** ...

MISSISSIPPI