



FROM THE DEAN  
AND DIRECTOR

Five years ago, VIMS charted a course for the future with an ambitious strategic plan and launched the public phase of a bold fundraising campaign alongside William & Mary. Both exceeded expectations. Our success was accomplished through the vision and support of people like you, and I'm pleased to share our progress in this Impact Report.

I'm grateful for the leadership of A. Marshall Acuff, Jr., who helmed the *For the Bold* campaign at VIMS and who helped us achieve many of these milestones.

While there is much to celebrate, I am particularly pleased to call your attention to the story on page 20 in which we announce the new Acuff Center for Aquaculture.

Whether you are a supporter who shares our passion for the water, a partner organization or agency with a stake in our mission, an alum sharing your leadership and learning with the world, one of the dedicated individuals who work, volunteer, and study here, or one of the visionary Foundation Board members elevating VIMS through your service and generosity, you have a share in our success.

Thank you. We have accomplished much over these five years and we stand poised to achieve much more.

And so we go.

John T. Wells  
Director, Virginia Institute of Marine Science  
Dean, William & Mary School of Marine Science

# A BOLD MOVE FORWARD

In 2015 — our 75th anniversary — VIMS established a five-year strategic plan with six ambitious goals. In this Impact Report, we are proud to highlight our achievements and celebrate you, our supporters, whose impact on our mission is immeasurable.

## STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS



UNDERSTANDING GLOBAL CHANGE



BUILDING COASTAL RESILIENCE



ENHANCING THE ECONOMY



EDUCATING MARINE LEADERS



EMPOWERING OUR PEOPLE



BROADENING OUR IMPACT



## FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE VIMS FOUNDATION

Through the years I have gazed out to the Catlett Islands and wondered at the changes time and tide have brought to my part of the York River. As people who love the water, I know you understand that feeling when a stretch of river or bay becomes your own. I'm also certain that you have been witness to change. Whether it's the ghost trees of the Catlett Islands, the erosion of your shore, the increase in plastic pollution, the immersion of your backyard in storm water, or the decline of a species of your favorite fish, you can't help but see it everywhere.

It was seeing this change that prompted me to get to know VIMS. I started to look into what VIMS scientists were studying and how it was relevant to my backyard. As I started to understand the impact that VIMS research was having on the marine environment that inspires me, I understood that I could play a role in championing VIMS and the Chesapeake Bay by serving on the VIMS Foundation Board. VIMS is one of the most respected marine institutes in the world and as president of the VIMS Foundation, it is my privilege to serve as its chief advocate.

I am delighted to offer this report on what we have been able to accomplish together and to share the VIMS Foundation's financials that demonstrate our growth and our strength.

*Phyllis Cothran*

Phyllis L. Cothran  
President, VIMS Foundation Board  
FY19-FY20

VIMS' research on marine microplastics extends to the Gulf of Alaska.

"VIMS is one of the most respected marine institutes in the world and as president of the VIMS Foundation, it is my privilege to serve as its chief advocate."



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In 2016, the VIMS Council and the VIMS Foundation merged to form the current VIMS Foundation.

See page 45 for more.

