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Bonner named Chief Research and Education Officer at Beacon Institute

Clarkson University Shipley Fellow to lead "21st century program of innovation development and training"

BEACON, NY—James S. Bonner, Ph.D., P.E., a nationally recognized expert in real-time water monitoring technologies, has been named Chief Research and Education Officer at [Beacon Institute for Rivers and Estuaries](http://www.bire.org), according to John Cronin, the Institute's CEO and Director.

"Innovation is our future," said Cronin. "Just as we must explore tomorrow's technologies today, we must train and identify tomorrow's innovators today. Dr. James Bonner has unparalleled experience to lead a 21st century program of innovation development and training that ranges from the laboratory to New York's rivers, and from middle school to post graduate studies."

Bonner, a professor of civil and environmental engineering and Shipley Fellow at Clarkson University, has held a dual appointment as REON Director of Research with Beacon Institute since 2008. He is internationally recognized for his expertise in environmental real-time monitoring technologies, and as a sought-after teacher and consultant.

In his new role, Bonner will merge research and education under one department, while expanding the Institute's programs in both areas.

"Our aim is to create an education pipeline that leads from the younger grades straight through graduate studies to professional placement in environmental technology innovation," said Bonner. "On the research side, we will broaden our work beyond real-time monitoring and create even stronger partnerships in the private and higher education sectors. The mutual goal of Beacon Institute and Clarkson University is to make New York State a recognized capital in advanced monitoring and water technologies."

Bonner's expanded responsibilities will include his present duties leading the development and implementation of the [River and Estuary Observatory Network \(REON\)](#). REON is the first technology-based monitoring and forecasting network for rivers and estuaries and a joint effort between Beacon Institute, [IBM](#) and [Clarkson University](#).

He will continue his leadership role in [SENSE IT](#), a Beacon Institute/Clarkson University educational collaboration funded in large part by the [National Science Foundation](#). SENSE IT brings sensor technology into the high-school classroom by providing teachers with the hands-on curriculum modules and equipment to teach their students to construct their own prototype water quality sensors, with the ultimate goal of interesting students in science, engineering and technology career paths.

"Jim will also lead a national search for an education program manager who will join our research staff under the merger of these departments. In the world of innovation, research, training and education cannot be separated," said Cronin. "Beacon Institute's goal to be an innovation center will now be led by one of the nation's most innovative talents in the field of advanced environmental technologies. Jim Bonner's expertise and vision is second to none. "

Bonner holds an M.S. in civil engineering and a Ph.D. in civil and environmental engineering from Clarkson University, as well as a B.A. in biology from SUNY Plattsburgh. In the early 1990s, he spearheaded an effort with colleagues from Texas A&M University to pursue a long-term research project to improve understanding of modern oil spill remediation and countermeasure technologies.

Bonner also established the [Shoreline Environmental Research Facility](#) in Corpus Christi, TX, where he developed and implemented technologies that use high-frequency radar to map surface water along the Texas coastline.

Bonner has developed new technologies that provide real-time continuous monitoring with in-situ sensing ("sensing in place") to measure important water parameters. With funding from the National Science Foundation, he has undertaken a national effort to create a cyber-collaboratory framework, enabling collection and circulation of real-time data and data analysis in the study of oxygen depletion in water.

About Beacon Institute for Rivers and Estuaries:

Beacon Institute for Rivers and Estuaries, with offices in Beacon and Troy, New York, is a not-for-profit environmental research organization engaging scientists, engineers, educators and policy experts in collaborative work focusing on real-time monitoring of river ecosystems. It aims to make the Hudson Valley a global center for scientific and technological innovation that advances research, education and public policy regarding rivers and estuaries. www.bire.org