

**Department of Biology
Texas State University
Strategic Plan for 2008-2012
Adopted: August 22, 2008**

Preface

For over a decade, the Department of Biology has been developing its faculty and facilities to support masters- and doctoral-level programs while maintaining excellence in our undergraduate programs. The next decade is a time for the execution of plans – including the most difficult step of all, developing a true scholarly culture among students and faculty members.

Mission Statement

To create and communicate knowledge of the life sciences

Vision Statement

To attain national recognition of the Department's research and degree programs

Specific Goals

- 1) Continue improving the rotation of course offerings to provide, in a timely manner, needed and desired courses taught by well-qualified members of the faculty
- 2) Continue replacing and upgrading equipment in teaching laboratories to provide the tools for excellent laboratory experiences
- 3) Expand undergraduate research opportunities
- 4) Continue to recruit and retain faculty members and graduate students with outstanding credentials
- 5) Continue to work toward higher instructional assistant salaries at the master's level to attract better-qualified students
- 6) Continue to seek external support for graduate tuition scholarships
- 7) Continue to work toward excellence in existing degree programs. A degree program will not be substantially changed in size (based on the number of participating faculty members) without formal action by the Department.
- 8) Continue promoting and developing the interdisciplinary nature of the PhD program in Aquatic Resources
- 9) Increase the participation of women and minorities as students and faculty members
- 10) Continue supporting the improvement of science education at all levels
- 11) Develop and institute a PhD program in Conservation and Integrative Biology to broaden doctoral-level opportunities in the Department
- 12) Build a greenhouse designed for and dedicated to research

- 13)** Obtain space in planned Science & Engineering Building to meet future research needs
- 14)** Promote the development of a College-level instrument facility with appropriate technical support
- 15)** Develop a plan for field stations in strategic locations

Review and Amendments

The Chair of Biology will annually provide to the faculty an oral report on progress toward the specific goals. Following each report, the Plan may be amended by faculty action.