COASTAL STEWARD PROFESSIONAL – Erin Hill, The Center for Coastal Studies, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

Erin Hill, a research scientist at the Center for Coastal Studies, TAMUCC, has been studying water quality and water quality issues in the Coastal Bend since she was a graduate student at the Center for Coastal Studies. When Erin discovered that area Colonias were also experiencing water quality problems, as well as suffering from other environmental difficulties, she decided to jump in and see if she could help. She started educating herself about Colonias, and then submitted multiple successful grant applications. The grant funds were used to create new environmental education materials in both English and Spanish. The program has been so successful, it has been expanded to include a watershed model that demonstrates the effects stormwater runoff has on receiving waters. The Colonias Environmental Education project has been so successful, appreciative residents look forward to more educational opportunities in the future. The program has brought hope and change to a marginalized population.