Suhey Ortiz Rosa becomes the third recipient of Vice Admiral Conrad C. Lautenbacher Public Service Graduate Scholarship, administered annually by the NOAA Center for Earth System Sciences and Remote Sensing Technologies (NOAA CESSRST).

Suhey Ortiz, a Ph.D. student in University of Puerto Rico’s Marine Sciences program is studying Bio-Optical and Biogeochemical Characterization of “Dark Water” Events in Tropical Oligotrophic Waters and the impact of black water masses in optical properties and ecological implications.

Figure 1: Suhey Ortiz

Miss Ortiz has been involved in several outreach program including open house activities at local elementary schools in Puerto Rico. She plans on offering workshops aimed at undergraduate and graduate students on creating story maps using the ESRI platforms and how to extract and utilize satellite data for research projects related to marine sciences.

Suhey plans on participating in various workshops for environmental and natural resource managers focusing on access to remote sensing data and imagery, difficulties in handling and manipulating this kind of scientific information, the effective use of the data for monitoring water quality in marine reserves and other habitat areas of particular concern, as well as the benefits and limitations of using satellite data for policy decisions.

Dr. Roy Armstrong, Professor, at the Department of Marine Sciences at University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez. (UPRM), is Suhey’s advisor and she is co-mentored by Dr. William Hernandez (Post Doc Fellow, NOAA CREST).
Suhey was presented with the award by Vice Admiral Conrad Lautenbacher and Benjamin Friedman, NOAA’s Deputy Under Secretary for Operations during the NOAA CREST Day activities.

The previous award winners are Stephen Escarzaga (2017) from the University of Texas, El Paso and Veeshan Narinesingh (2018) from the City College of New York, and Suhey Ortiz Rosa from the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez.

The Vice Admiral Conrad C. Lautenbacher Public Service Graduate Scholarship provides financial support for Master’s and Doctoral studies in Earth Systems Science, Engineering, Data Science, Geosciences and Remote Sensing Technologies. Vice Admiral Conrad C. Lautenbacher is a supporter of the NOAA Educational Partnership Program with Minority Serving Institutions (EPP/MSI), as well as, a supporter of activities for diversifying the workforce through programs that reach out and commit to inclusion of students and graduates from traditionally, underrepresented communities. In recognition of his contribution to the NOAA EPP/MSI Program and specifically his support for Earth Systems Sciences, the Vice Admiral Conrad C. Lautenbacher Public Service Scholarship is established at and funded by the NOAA Center for Earth System Sciences and Remote Sensing Technologies (NOAA-CESSRST). Vice Admiral Conrad C. Lautenbacher Jr. served as the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere at the US Department of Commerce and the 8th Administrator of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) from December 19, 2001 to October 31, 2008. Dr. Lautenbacher spearheaded the first Earth Observation Summit, which hosted ministerial-level representation from several dozen nations in July 2003.

About NOAA-EPP CESSRST

NOAA Center for Earth System Sciences and Remote Sensing Technologies (CESSRST), a Cooperative Science Center (CSC), was established in 2016 through a national competition and is funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. It is a National leader in STEM workforce development and supporting NOAA mission related to Earth Systems observations, monitoring through application of environmental satellites and ground-based remote sensing technologies. The Center’s mission is to educate, train and graduate a new generation of diverse and competent cadre of students, and to create a diverse and skilled workforce in NOAA mission-aligned STEM and social science disciplines through participation in state-of-the-art research.