



## College of Engineering

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### University of Iowa is Key Partner in National Effort to Improve Water Management

DES MOINES, IA – The University of Iowa (UI) is poised to receive \$21M over the next five years as a key partner in the recently announced new [Cooperative Institute for Research to Operations in Hydrology](#), or CIROH, funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Administered by the Alabama Water Institute at the University of Alabama, CIROH represents a national consortium of academic institutions, non-profit organizations, and government and industry partners across the United States and Canada. They will develop and deliver national hydrological analyses, forecast information, data, guidance, and equitable decision-support services to inform essential emergency management and water resources decisions.

Larry Weber, UI professor of civil and environmental engineering, and the Edwin B. Green Chair in Hydraulics will lead CIROH activities at IIHR—Hydroscience and Engineering (IIHR). “We are pleased to partner with colleagues at the Alabama Water Institute on this important initiative,” said Weber. “It represents an important opportunity for NOAA to bring together academic expertise from across the country to address some of our nation’s most pressing water-related issues.”

The CIROH research and educational initiatives led by IIHR will build on the groundbreaking work of the Iowa Flood Center (IFC) and the Iowa Watershed Approach.

The consortium assists NOAA’s vision of a water- and weather-ready nation. CIROH will advance water research in support of NOAA’s Office of Water Prediction and reinforce the work of the National Weather Service and National Water Center through collaboration across the scientific community in four broad research themes:

- water resources prediction capabilities
- community water resources modeling
- hydroinformatics
- application of social, economic, and behavioral science to water resources prediction

CIROH will also create educational opportunities to prepare the next generation of water professionals and will support workforce training through local-to-national scale initiatives.

IIHR and IFC will advance CIROH's mission by conducting fundamental and applied research in hydroinformatics, advancing technologies for floodplain mapping, and will begin developing real-time water quality forecast models.

"IIHR's extensive background in all aspects of water resources, including monitoring, modeling, visualization, and prediction, will make Iowa a key player in virtually all aspects of CIROH," said Witold Krajewski, professor of civil and environmental engineering and director of the IFC.

"This is a unique opportunity for us to share the innovative models and tools developed by the Iowa Flood Center with the rest of the nation," added Krajewski. "It's another way for Iowa to demonstrate leadership in the hydrologic community."

Steven J. Burian, the Alabama Water Institute's director of science and professor of civil, construction and environmental engineering, will serve as the executive director of CIROH.

"We now begin the real work of coproducing research with NOAA and other partners that will benefit society and provide learning opportunities for students for years to come," said Burian. "The research innovations delivered by the Cooperative Institute will improve forecasts of floods and droughts, increase efficiency of water resources management, protect water quality, and empower stakeholders to make confident and timely decisions."

"I am excited to have the University of Iowa as a key CIROH partner," added Burian. "IIHR's extensive experience leading hydrologic initiatives, and the IFC's unique tools and outreach activities will go a long way toward helping to ensure CIROH's success."

IIHR—Hydroscience & Engineering is a **world-renowned center for education, research, and public service focusing on hydraulic engineering and fluid mechanics**. Based in the C. Maxwell Stanley Hydraulics Laboratory, **IIHR is a unit of the University of Iowa's [College of Engineering](#)**. IIHR faculty members, research engineers, and students work together to understand and manage one of the world's greatest resources—water.

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