

## FACULTY GRANTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Name: Dr. Robert D. Vaillancourt

Department: Earth Sciences

Title of Grant: **Project Development: Towards a Modern Ocean Observatory- Windows on the Ocean World for Millersville and other PASSHE University Marine Science Programs.**

Date of Award: Nov 21, 2012

Category of Reward: Project Development

Award: one-quarter release time load reduction

### REPORT

The release time award was intended to allow time for me to develop the idea for a proposal that would be eventually submitted to the National Science Foundation (NSF) FSML program (Improvement in Facilities, Communications, and Equipment at Biological Field Stations and Marine Laboratories). The objective of this proposal was to purchase and deploy an autonomous, ocean observatory moored on the continental shelf seafloor adjacent offshore of the Chincoteague Bay Field Station (formerly known as the Marine Science Consortium). The observatory would be outfitted with oceanographic sensors that would measure important oceanographic parameters and relay via satellite linkage to computers back at Millersville University. After carefully and exhaustively researching this project idea, it was determined that the technology required to build the observatory had not yet reached sufficient level of development to be a viable option. The moored instrument buoy (a "wire-walker" profiler) was at the time of the research was not yet offered for sale as it was not sufficiently developed. It was decided that while in principle the ocean observatory was a good idea and would significantly add to research and education activities at Millersville and beyond, it was best to shelve it until a future date.