Non-Cognitive Predictors of Student Success: A Predictive Validity Comparison Between Domestic and International Students

BACKGROUND:
➢ Coastal marshes are among the most ecologically productive & threatened ecosystems on earth.
➢ Leaders make use/conservation/restoration decisions based on the perceived values of the benefits these ecosystems provide.
➢ There are two primary methods for assessing this value: revealed preference willingness-to-pay and stated preference willingness-to-pay methods (Johnston et al., 2011).
➢ Both ignore a large component of value that people derived from ecosystems—cultural value (Chan et al., 2012).
➢ Cultural values (e.g. spiritual, recreational, aesthetic, educational) are difficult to quantify in purely economic terms.
➢ This research contributes to ecosystem valuation by exemplifying qualitative processes that can be used in conjunction with conventional quantitative methods.

METHODS
1. Conducted 9 semi-structured, group interviews with local residents, that were audio recorded and transcribed verbatim.
2. Systematically developed theory though Grounded Theory approach to coding of qualitative data.
3. Calculated prominence of codes to determine major and minor themes.
4. Organized themes into process maps to tell a story of what matters most to residents as related to the salt marshes in Massachusetts, Virginia, and Georgia.
5. Presented results at stakeholder workshops in each community.

RESULTS
➢ Massachusetts: Recreational experiences in beautiful marsh and open water landscapes inspire serenity, which, in the context of residential development, leads to conservation support.
➢ Virginia: Recreational experiences and water-based livelihoods inspire a marsh and “shore” identity, which, in the context of industrial agriculture and growing flood risks from rain and storm surge, leads to community activism and conservation needs.
➢ Georgia: Childhood experiences in expansive marshes inspire stewardship cultivation, which, in the context of industrial pollution and residential development, leads to regulatory enforcement needs.

These experiences inspire serenity (MA), shore/marsh identities (VA), and stewardship cultivation (GA).