The American Dream: From City Heights to The White House
Dear Friends,

While in The White House Oval Office, I felt the distinct presence of all of you – students, scientists, community, partners, and generous donors – standing there with me.

On December 12th, I was incredibly honored to represent you as we received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring – the first ever awarded in San Diego County.

Meeting our nation’s President was not something I could have imagined 12 years ago, as we converted a kayak storage closet into a small bay-front laboratory for kids. But with our collective efforts, Ocean Discovery Institute has become a national model for engaging young people from underserved communities—the nation’s greatest untapped talent pool—and preparing them to become our future decision makers and workforce.

The Presidential Award recognized that Ocean Discovery students exemplify the American Dream. They seize opportunity, use it to improve themselves, and will contribute to our nation as future leaders in the fields that are most important to our country’s economic health and quality of life.

The fulfillment of this dream would not be possible without the efforts of each of you – from the scientists who provide workshops to the individuals and companies that contribute funds – this honor belongs to you. Whether you are liberal or conservative in your political views, it is you who collectively recognize the value of empowering these young people, from urban and diverse backgrounds, to ensure that our nation continues to be a leader in wealth generation and innovation. And it is your belief in these young people’s potential that enables them to believe in themselves.

While receiving this honor was incredibly inspiring, I am equally inspired when I hear our students describe their research, see our teachers take on new challenges in the classroom, and continue to receive generous support from our donors even during these difficult economic times.

It is this collective commitment over the past 12 years that has resulted in great achievements. We believe that with this achievement comes a responsibility and together we can do even more. Can you imagine what will be accomplished 12 years from now?

With tremendous inspiration,

Shara Fisler
Executive Director
In this report, we share how the investments of volunteers, partners, donors, and scientists provide opportunities to young people from urban and diverse backgrounds and empower them to transform their lives, their community, and ultimately our world, as scientific and environmental leaders.

These young people fulfill the American Dream as they seize opportunity, use it to improve themselves, and contribute to our nation as future leaders in the fields that are most important to our country’s economic health and quality of life.

By integrating scientific research, education, and environmental stewardship, Ocean Discovery Institute initiatives transform young lives and strengthen the future of our region, state, and nation.

In 2011 a total of 5,626 individuals were served through three levels of initiatives.

- **Ocean Leaders**
  - After-school Initiative
  - 120 served

- **Ocean Science Explorers**
  - School-based Initiative
  - 2,638 served

- **Science Adventurers & Watershed Avengers**
  - Community Initiatives
  - 2,868 served

Participation in science and conservation
Science test scores
College attendance
Pursuit of science and conservation degrees
Community Initiative: **Science Adventurers**

This community initiative engages thousands of young people and their families in single-day, hands-on science activities that inspire the community to inquire, investigate, and innovate.

“Volunteering with Ocean Discovery, I am fortunate to give back to my community that has already given me so much. I have grown as a leader, a teacher, and a person. Through my volunteer experience, I have discovered a passion for engineering and I am considering a career in this field.”

-Johnny Sanvichith, Discovery Fellow and AmeriCorps Volunteer

Right: Johnny spends Saturday mornings teaching young people from the community about Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs) and engineering careers in San Diego. Johnny is one of over 1,000 volunteers who empower young people to discover science, while fulfilling their own desire to make a difference.
Community Initiative: **Science Adventurers**

**Number of City Heights Participants**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>79</td>
<td></td>
<td>260</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The number of participants from City Heights more than tripled between 2010 and 2011.

**Highlights**

1,916 students, parents, and community supporters participated in hands-on engineering activities.

Hosted activity booths at events such as FaceLift, San Diego Science Festival, and The Maritime Alliance Gala.

Students **volunteered** to lead the activities. These activities prepare our future innovators who will keep our nation competitive.

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**Take Action!**

Want to help increase scientific literacy in City Heights? Make a donation to purchase much needed scientific equipment!

For more information, email info@OceanDI.org or call us at 858.488.3849.
Community Initiative: **Watershed Avengers**

This community initiative mobilizes neighbors to transform canyon habitats that are socially and environmentally degraded into safe and healthy places for youth to play, learn, and explore.

“Because of **visionary donors** that recognized the connection between the environment and community health, City Heights’ residents have been able to transform Swan Canyon. Invasive plants are on the retreat, native plants are thriving, and the community has rediscovered this precious natural resource.”

- Jody Carey, City Heights Community Member

Above: **562 donors** across sectors, including the California Coastal Conservancy and the Redevelopment Agency of the City of San Diego, have provided support to improve City Heights’ canyons. This has enabled hundreds of community members like the Arriaga family pictured above, to work together to make their canyons safe and healthy.
Community Initiative: **Watershed Avengers**

**Percent of Return Participants**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The number of volunteers that participated in more than one restoration event demonstrated an increase of 20%.

**Highlights**

- 970 individuals restored their neighborhood canyon.
- The San Diego Police Department attributes recent declines in crime in part to canyon stewardship efforts.
- **Donors** contributed funds that enabled volunteers and experts to significantly increase habitat quality ($p<0.01$).

Do you want to learn about canyons while helping to restore these valuable resources? Volunteer to be a Watershed Avenger!

For more information, email info@OceanDI.org or call us at 858.488.3849.
School-Based Initiative: **Ocean Science Explorers**

This school-based initiative provides classroom and field-based, hands-on science education for students along with professional development and resources for teachers. The program engages children in the third grade when their natural curiosity for science is high and continues over four consecutive years.

“HOORAY!! Your program is providing unique experiences and priceless opportunities. My teachers are so thrilled to partner with Ocean Discovery. On behalf of my students, staff, parents, and community, I simply want to say Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!”

-Derek Murchison, Adams Elementary Principal, in response to the Presidential Award

Above: Elementary school students measure phosphates while testing water quality, learning how to collect data to better understand the world. It is the investment of **90 partners**, including the San Diego Unified School District, that brings the resources and expertise needed to provide high quality science education.
School-Based Initiative: **Ocean Science Explorers**

**Science Test Scores**

- **Pre-program Test Scores**: 46%
- **Post-Program Test Scores**: 76%

Students increased their science test scores at each grade level.

**Highlights**

- 2,638 students participated in hands-on science.
- 87 teachers participated in professional development workshops.
- By closely **partnering** with teachers and administrators, participating schools have significantly increased state standardized test scores (p<0.1).

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**Take Action!**

Are you a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematic (STEM) professional? Join our STEM Corps and provide opportunities for students to explore science and careers.

For more information, email info@OceanDI.org or call us at 858.488.3849.
After-School Initiative: **Ocean Leaders**

Our after-school initiative provides a pathway for young people that leads from middle school through college, and on to science and conservation careers. A series of interconnected after-school and summer programs act like building blocks to develop students’ scientific knowledge and skills. Intensive support services provide tools for students to overcome obstacles along their path.

“Thanks to my mentor, **scientist** Dr. Drew Talley, I realized my passion for research and was able to pursue my dream of being the 1st in my family to go to college. I am now applying for PhD programs and will continue serving as a scientific mentor for inner-city students.”

-Anai Novoa, Aquatic Biology major at UC Santa Barbara

Above: Anai Novoa conducts image analysis on purple sea urchin larva during her summer internship at Scripps Institution of Oceanography. More than **100 scientists** have provided authentic science and career exploration opportunities.
After-School Initiative: **Ocean Leaders**

**College Persistence Past 1st Year**

- National Average: 68%
- Ocean Leaders: 95%

Ocean Leaders persist in college far greater than students nationally.

**Highlights**

- 120 students participated as Ocean Leaders.
- Ocean Leader students achieved significantly higher science GPA’s relative to their peers (p<0.01).
- Student and **scientist** cooperative research to reduce sea turtle bycatch won the 2011 runner-up World Wildlife Fund International Smart Gear Award.

Would you like to help a student with the college application process? Volunteer to work one-on-one with students during our single-day college workshops.

For more information, email info@OceanDI.org or call us at 858.488.3849.
CORPORATE INVESTORS

IMPACT INVESTORS ($25,000 +)


INNOVATION INVESTORS ($7,500 - $24,999)

Aqualia Foundation, California Coastal Commission, Rice Family Foundation, and the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project.

DISCOVERY INVESTORS ($19,999 & under)


IMPACT INVESTORS ($40,000 +)


INNOVATION INVESTORS ($20,000 - $39,999)

Aqualia Foundation, California Coastal Commission, Rice Family Foundation, and the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project.

DISCOVERY INVESTORS ($7,499 & under)

Individual Donors

VISIONARY PATRONS ($100,000 and above cumulative)
Anonymous (2), Linda & Joel Fisler, Lynne Gorguze & Scott Peters, Scott Grimes, and Yvette & Floyd Pickrell.

IMPACT CIRCLE ($5,000—$30,000)

INNOVATION CIRCLE ($1,000—$4,999)

DISCOVERY CIRCLE ($999& under)
Partners

IMPACT PARTNERS
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration

INNOVATION PARTNERS

DISCOVERY PARTNERS
Americorps, Bahai Spiritual Group, Barrio Logan College Institute, Big Brothers Big Sisters of San Diego County, City Heights Young Marines, California Center for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence, Calit2 at UCSD, Cardinals Interact, City Heights Educational Collaborative, Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas, Core Power Yoga, Elementary Institute of Science, Girl Scouts San Diego, Grupo Marino, Grupo Tortugero, Hillcrest Youth Center, Hopkins Marine Station of Stanford University, Kanaka Outrigger Canoe Club, Kids Korps, Kiwanis Club of La Jolla, Monroe Clark Middle School Builder's Club and Washington D.C. Club, Nativity Prep Academy, NRG Energy, Promise Healthcare, San Diego Coastkeeper, San Diego Workforce Partnership, San Diego State University, SDSU Alpha Pi Sigma, STAR/PAL, Tariq Khamisa Foundation, UCSD Academic Connections, UCSD Academic Internship Program, UCSD OASIS Union of Pan Asian Communities, US Coast Guard, Youth Voice, VIP Mentors, The Neurosciences Institute.

Providing expertise and resources to increase impacts.
**Leadership**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
- Tres Conrique, Chair
- John E. Johns, Vice Chair
- Sean Caddell
- Vincy Dunmire
- Kurt Gering, Ex-Officio
- Scott Grimes
- Ted Griswold
- Tom Klopack
- Ileana Ovalle Engel, Ex-Officio
- Manuel Quintero
- Genette McGowan
- Liang Li
- Brent Goodwin

**FULL TIME STAFF**
- Shara Fisler, Executive Director
- Lindsay Goodwin, Associate Director
- Elizabeth Horpedahl, Director of Development & Communications
- Travis Kemnitz, Engagement Coach
- Anne Correia, Facilities Operations Manager
- Melissa Kagitbak, After-School Programs Manager
- Melissa Nichols, Operations Manager
- Jeri Nolan, School Programs Manager
- Carolina Barraza, Events & Communications Coordinator
- Rochelle Mothokakobo, School Programs Coordinator
- Carla Piske, Environmental Stewardship Discovery Fellow
- Claudia Rodriguez, After-School Programs Support Services Coordinator
- Tram Nguyen, After-School Programs Coordinator
- MacKenzie Wilson, Development & Executive Coordinator
- Joel Barkan, Lead Instructor
- Carolina Bracamonte, Discovery Fellow
- Johnny Sanvichth, Discovery Fellow

**PART-TIME STAFF & DISCOVERY FELLOWS**
- Daniella Iraizabal, Jared Ocampo, Santos Sillas, Cali Turner, Rudy Vargas, Sonya Vargas, and Jeremiah Wallace.

**INTERNS**
- Aimee Cummins, Elizabeth Custer, Keith Drewett, Chandler La Fee, Sara Cleveland Feitseira, Shannon Lu, Katherine Millage, Brian Razavine, Jorge Rivera, Vanessa Sandoval, Kate Saunders, Maggie Ta, and Sydney Tureaud.

**EDUCATION & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT ADVISORS**
- Dr. Sandy Buczynski, Joe Malek, Dr. Carlos Nelson, Joe Ogilvie, Dr. Adam Pacal, Rachel Rabinor, Dr. Roxanne Ruiz, and Court Turner.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORS**
- Jon Avery, Craig Hooker, and Jody Carey.

**SCIENTIFIC ADVISORS**
- Eric Cathcart, Dr. Paul Dayton, Dr. Mark Denny, Dr. Miguel Garcia-Guzman, Dr. Sarah Gray, Dr. John Mendlein, Dr. Yonat Swimmer, Dr. Drew Talley, Dr. Theresa Sinicropo
- Talley, Dr. John Wang, and Dr. Zhi-Yong (John) Yin.

**COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**
- Cathy Lloyd-Bauerle, John E. Johns, Cook & Schmid, and Annie McBride.

**DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**GALA COMMITTEE TASK FORCE**

**FAMILY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL**
- Richard Alvarez, Jessica Angel, Veronica Barragan, Rosa Calvario, Monica Cisneros, Gizelle Crisostomo, Daisy Cruz, Abigail Figueroa, Izazema Islas, Jordi Mejia, Alma Miramontes, Ravshan Otadjanov, Jesse Ramirez.

Creating a vision for all students to reach their potential.
**Volunteers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Volunteers: 1,271</th>
<th>“Working in this positive environment is gratifying, and the joy of helping a student transform is like no other!” - Linda Kelly, Volunteer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours Worked: 10,305</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Below: Motorola volunteers make tide pool replicas for the school programs in which students learn about animal adaptations to their environment.

Below: Bank of America honors an extraordinary Ocean Discovery volunteer with the 2011 Local Hero Award.

*Enabling students to transform their lives, community, and world.*
## 2011 Financials

### REVENUE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corporate Contributions</td>
<td>$149,350.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundation Contributions</td>
<td>$464,305.79</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraiser Contributions</td>
<td>$225,946.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Government Grants</td>
<td>$548,082.84</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individual Contributions</td>
<td>$466,146.47</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Fees</td>
<td>$12,420.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>$8,026.52</td>
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</table>

**TOTAL REVENUE** $1,874,277.62

### EXPENSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Program Services</td>
<td>$1,298,285.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General &amp; Administrative</td>
<td>$43,088.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>$76,532.89</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**TOTAL EXPENSES** $1,417,906.23

**NET INCOME** $456,371.39

*Additional In-Kind Contributions: $138,062*

*Investments in Ocean Discovery Institute yield a high rate of return*

**Highlighted ROI:**

Ocean Discovery Institute is able to facilitate hands-on science learning at one-third the cost that would be needed by the schools to provide similar programs without this partnership.

*Total Revenue and Net Income include capital campaign funds to be disbursed over a four year period.*
“I was so proud to represent thousands of other Ocean Discovery students as we received the Presidential Award at The White House. I recognize that I have a great responsibility to contribute to our nation as an innovator and problem solver.”

- Ulisses Barraza, Chemical Engineering major at UCLA.