

NEWSLETTER

Our newsletter provides an opportunity to catch up on some of our organizational highlights. Here is a four-minute read of this past month's exciting news, including:

- A Special Invitation from Deputy Secretary Cindy Marten - *Page 1*
- Dr. Jo Vance Dissertation Defense and Spring Staff Retreat - *Page 2*
- Scientist-in-Residence, Jhen Cabassal - *Page 3*
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A SPECIAL INVITATION FROM DEPUTY SECRETARY CINDY MARTEN

Cindy Marten, Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education, invited Ocean Discovery Institute to participate in a convening supporting their "YOU Belong in STEM" initiative, designed to increase representation in STEM nationwide. Carla Camacho, Ocean Discovery's Manager of Business Development, traveled to Washington, D.C., to participate in these discussions and this effort. Cindy Marten has supported and partnered with Ocean Discovery for two decades! She was Central Elementary's Principal and became the San Diego Unified School District Superintendent. She personally knows our program's impact and the depth of our work.

Recently, Ashley Huderson (picture on the left) visited our Living Lab. She is an advisor at the U.S. Department of Education, where she developed and implemented a strategy that supports Marten's vision for STEM education across America.



CONGRATULATIONS DR. JOANNA VANCE

We witnessed something amazing from our Living Lab! Our Out-of-School Program Manager, Jo Vance, defended her Ed.D. dissertation titled *Reimagining mathematics: Examining the relationship between mathematics self-efficacy and STEM achievement in underrepresented K-12 students through participation in community-based STEM programs.*



We are proud of Jo and her passion for integrating math into our science programs. Jo presented how math can be applied to our students' daily lives to promote belief and achievement. We know this is a great step forward that will be reflected in the students we reach. Go, Math and Science! Go, Dr. Vance! Go Awesome!

SPRING STAFF RETREAT!



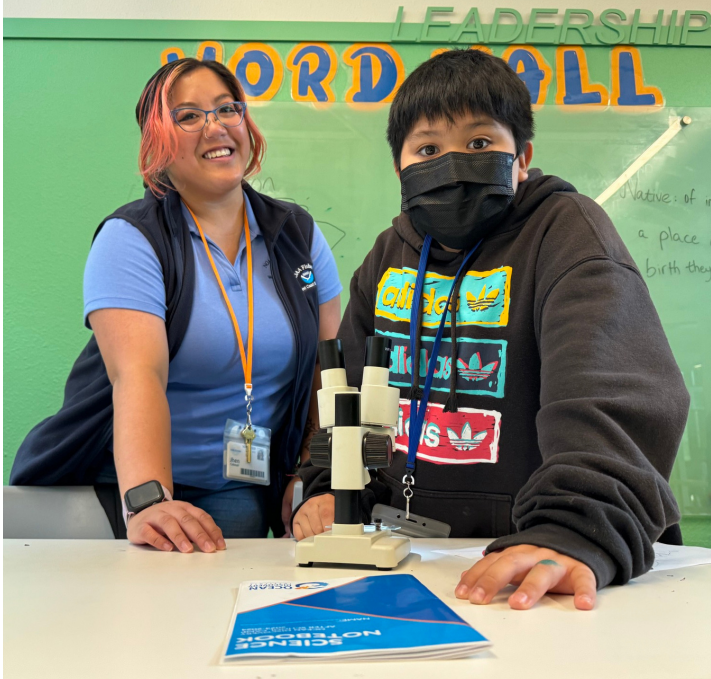
What an amazing Spring Staff Retreat full of energy, friendly competition, and excitement!

Engaging in mission-themed games, getting to know one another better, and hearing insights from Richard Barrera, San Diego Unified School District's School Board Trustee, made for a memorable experience. These special moments strengthen our bonds as a team and deepen our understanding of our mission and what the future holds.



SCIENTIST-IN-RESIDENCE: JHEN CABASSAL

We had the honor of hosting our first Scientist-in-Residence of the Year, Jhen Cabassal, Marine Habitat Resource Specialist, from NOAA's office in Long Beach! Jhen's passion for science, ethnic diversity in STEM, and commitment resonated across all of our programs.



Throughout her visit, Jhen brought her expertise to life, engaging with students and sharing her unique journey to become the science leader she is today. Her discussions and knowledge of endangered species added a rich dimension to our programs, leaving a lasting impact on both our staff and students.

If you are a science leader who believes in making a difference and sparking curiosity in young people, the Scientist-in-Residence Program may be for you.

[Click Here to Learn More](#)



OCEAN DISCOVERY ALUMNI EVENT AT THE LIVING LAB

This month we celebrated with our Ocean Leader alumni during a weekend brunch celebration! Over 60 alumni, staff, and family members came together despite the rainy weather! Nothing could dampen our spirits as we enjoyed a day filled with games, mingling, and meaningful connections.

Thank you to everyone who joined us! Your presence made the event truly special. We can't wait to see you all at *SPLASH!*

[Click Here to Purchase Tickets](#)





OCEAN DISCOVERY INSTITUTE
young lives transformed through science

SPLASH! 2024

**MAY
18**

FOUR O'CLOCK

OCEAN DISCOVERY INSTITUTE
 4255 THORN ST.
 SAN DIEGO, CA 92105

OCEAN DISCOVERY WOULD BE THRILLED TO HAVE YOU JOIN US FOR *SPLASH!* - AN ANNUAL FUNDRAISER SUPPORTING TUITION-FREE SCIENCE FOR STUDENTS IN CITY HEIGHTS.

HORS D'OEUVRES FROM OUR LOCAL MEXICAN EATERY, BEER, & WINE WILL BE PROVIDED. COME IN YOUR FINEST COCKTAIL ATTIRE AND HEAR FROM CURRENT STUDENTS, PARTICIPATE IN AN EXCITING VIRTUAL AUCTION, AND RAISE YOUR PADDLE TO SUPPORT TOMORROW'S SCIENCE LEADERS.

TICKETS \$50

**HOST COMMITTEE \$500 (10 TICKETS)
 HONORARY HOST COMMITTEE \$5000**

RSVP BY MAY 15TH

TO PURCHASE TICKET [CLICK HERE](#) OR CALL (619) 300-8735

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SYCUAN

To inspire the next generation of science leaders, Ocean Discovery Institute creates learning experiences for young people traditionally excluded from science due to race, income status, and educational opportunity. Our students will join high-paying fields, break generational poverty, and change the future of science.



SPLASH! 2024

VIRTUAL AUCTION

For the first time ever, we are hosting a Virtual Auction! This auction is open to ALL of our supporters, so you DON'T have to be at *SPLASH!* to participate. Winner's will be announced on Saturday, May 18th at our *SPLASH!* fundraiser.

Bid on auction items from your smartphone, tablet, or computer from any location. Create your account and bid away.

Steps to bid:

1. Click [HERE](#) to create an account
2. Swipe through the packages to learn more
3. Place Your Bid Today!

