# **NEWSLETTER**

June 2023

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:

### BUBBLE UP! REIMAGINED 2023!

Thank you to everyone who made our 2023 Bubble Up! a huge success!

From alums to local business leaders to longtime donors to leaders in the STEM industry, our support community showed up for the next generation of science leaders. Together we raised \$400,000 to support 100% tuition-free programming for thousands of young people in City Heights.



We are so grateful to everyone who participated for the difference that can be made in just one night and the opportunity to spend the next year ensuring our students become the science leaders we need!



## DR. ANAI NOVOA

This month we witnessed our very own Anai Novoa defend her Ph.D. We could not have been more proud of this moment, as she is our first Alumna to reach this level of achievement!

Anai joined Ocean Discovery at 14, and now almost 20 years later, she has earned the title of Dr. Anai Novoa.

Anai, you are an example of the greatness that our students can achieve.

Congratulations on this achievement; we are excited for your future as a Latina scientist ready to conquer the STEM field!

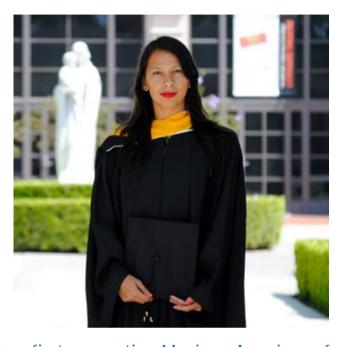




# MESSAGE FROM DR. ANAI NOVOA TO OUR OCEAN DISCOVERY COMMUNITY

"31,674 doctorates were earned in 2021.

The number of doctorates earned by minoritized U.S. citizens and permanent residents in science and engineering fields were: 2,527 of Asian heritage; 2,135 Hispanic or Latino; 1,392 Black or African American; and 64 American Indian or Alaska Native (National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Survey of Earned Doctorates).





As a first-generation Mexican-American of Purepecha heritage and a first-generation education student who also happens to have ADHD-- it gives me immense joy and pride to represent my community. To achieve this academic milestone despite the systematic and institutionalized barriers I had to overcome.

I am thankful to be amongst the newly minted PhDs. I recognize this privilege, and I am more than eager to support more to join me. I want to send a special shoutout to all the students finishing up an educational milestone-- whether it's finishing up the academic year or completing a degree---SI SE PUEDE!

You have a whole community of supporters cheering you on and being inspired by YOU!" - Dr. Anai Novoa.

#### STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS



Zayra Meza, a 3rd year at UC Berkeley, majoring in Anthropology, and Demian Rodriguez, a 4th year at USC, majoring in Aerospace Engineering

Congratulations to Ocean Leader alumni Zayra Meza and Demian Rodriguez for gaining summer internships with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation!

They will head to Washington, DC, to strengthen their career skills before graduating college and entering the workforce next year. Thank you to the Alaska Native Science & Engineering Program for sharing this formative career opportunity with our alums. Go awesome!

#### PROGRAM FIELD TRIPS

Five hundred elementary school students explored ways to make a difference by understanding animal adaptations as an ecologist and picking up trash to prevent it from entering our storm drains and protect our San Diego Coastline!

They also had the opportunity to visit the La Jolla Rocky Seashore and witness marine invertebrate adaptations firsthand! Many students experienced their very first trip to the tidepools!





# SPLASH! 2023

#### **NOVEMBER 04**

FOUR O'CLOCK

OCEAN DISCOVERY INSTITUTE

4255 THORN ST. SAN DIEGO CA 92105

Ocean Discovery Institute would be thrilled to have you join us for our first-ever *Splash!* – a cocktail fundraiser supporting tuition-free programs for thousands of students in City Heights.

TICKETS \$50 | HOST COMMITTEE \$500 (10 TICKETS)
REGISTRATION LINK COMING SOON!





**PLATINUM** 











#### **SILVER**





#### **BRONZE**













