

# 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:

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## OCEAN LEADER ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

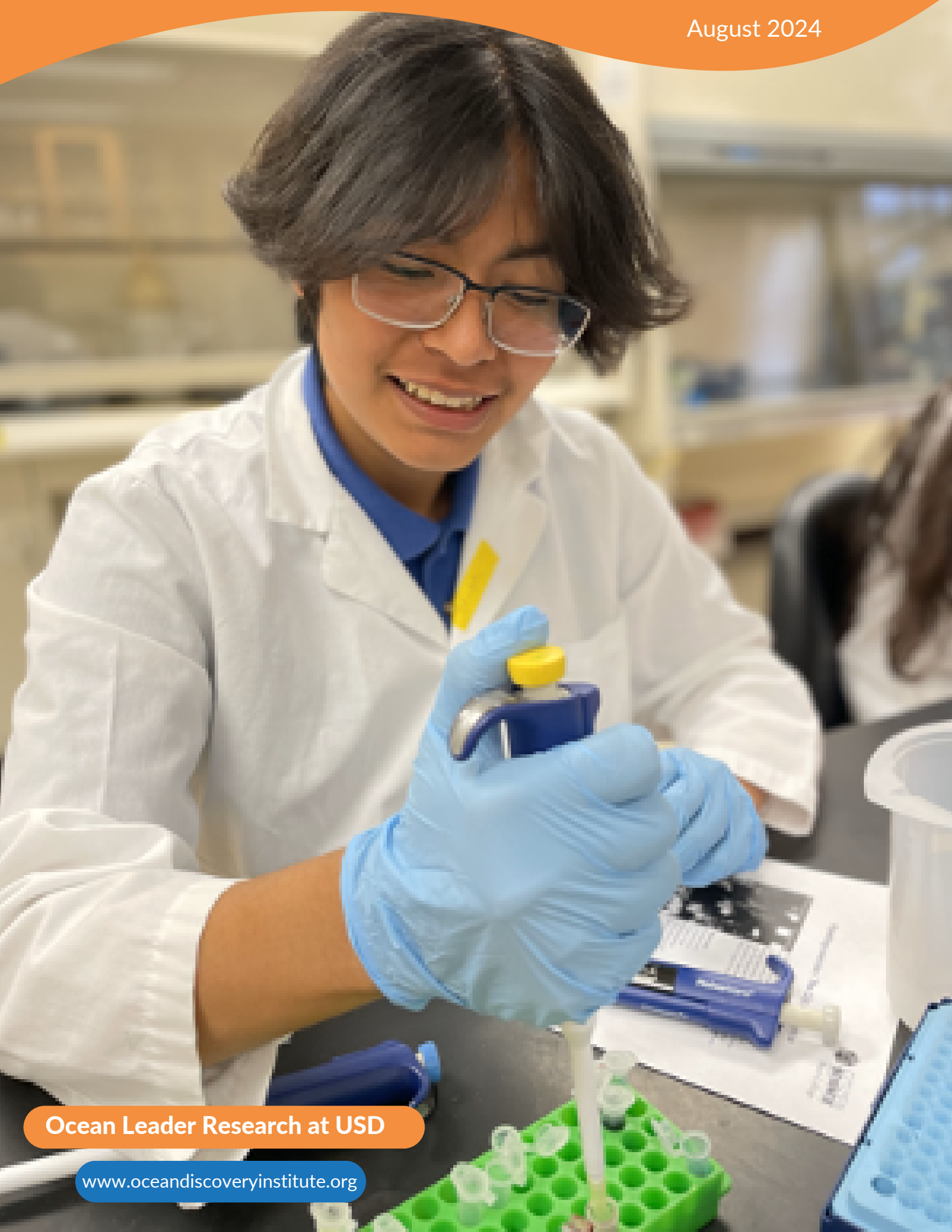
The San Diego Foundation featured Domanick Castro, a recent graduate of our Ocean Leader Program. This story exemplifies the impact of dedicated support from partners like the San Diego Foundation. Their longstanding collaboration, through the Community Scholars Initiative Scholarship, has empowered individuals like Domanick to thrive in high school and be accepted into one of the top universities in the country, the University of California, San Diego. This partnership has fostered academic success and cultivates future leaders committed to entering science and related fields.



*Domanick is the first in his family to attend college*

[Click Here to see the Video](#)

August 2024



Ocean Leader Research at USD

[www.oceandiscoveryinstitute.org](http://www.oceandiscoveryinstitute.org)

# RESEARCH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO

This summer, we kicked off a one-of-a-kind program at the University of San Diego (USD). This collaborative program provided our Ocean Leader high school students with an immersive science research opportunity using field research techniques guided by USD Principal Investigators. Our high school students also had the opportunity to live on campus for an entire week, learning what it will be like to sleep in dorms, eat at meal halls, and get a genuinely immersive college experience. This is the first time we have embarked on such an initiative, and its creation has been made possible with the support and resources provided by USD.



**21 high school students  
participated in this program**





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# DIRTY ROADS, DIRTY PLANTS: INVESTIGATING HOW TRAFFIC POLLUTION AFFECTS PLANT POLLINATION



Report to the Community

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# REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

Building on the success of our Ocean Leader summer programs, we were thrilled to bring back our Report to the Community after a six-year hiatus!

During the evening, our Ocean Leaders had the opportunity to share their incredible summer experiences with everyone. Rising 9th graders talked about learning the Science Discovery Process in San Diego, rising 10th graders shared their experience participating in community research projects in Baja, California, and our rising 11th graders presented their findings on stage after conducting research at the University of San Diego.

Wrapping up the summer by sharing experiences with peers, family, and the community was a fantastic way to end the season.

## **THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS:**

The Community of Bahía de los Angeles  
David C. Copley Foundation  
Farrell Family Foundation  
Harriet E. Pfleger Foundation  
Kiwanis Club of San Diego  
Parker Foundation  
Picerne Family Foundation  
Reuben H. Fleet Foundation Fund  
at The San Diego Foundation  
The San Diego Foundation  
The Lauer Fund at The San Diego Foundation  
Walter J. & Betty C. Zable Foundation



*Brandon is one of the Ocean Leaders who presented to over 100 attendees at the University of San Diego*



*Our Ocean Leaders with our Executive Director and Founder Shara Fisler*



This program is funded by the Outdoor Equity Grants Program, created through AB 209 and administered by CA State Parks, Office of Grants and Local Services



Summer Camp

[www.oceandiscoveryinstitute.org](http://www.oceandiscoveryinstitute.org)

# 7 WEEKS OF SUMMER CAMP

As August comes to a close, our summer is officially over. We had an amazing turnout of students this summer, welcoming over 300 students to our Living Lab in the heart of City Heights. Our Summer Camp participants learned about the rocky seashore through the eyes of their hermit crab friend, Pagoo, a fictional character from a classical children's book.



*Jair, our instructor, emphasizes the significance of sea shells for hermit crabs.*

Our students learned about the impact that our daily decisions have on the rocky seashore. They learned how hermit crabs choose their new home and the importance of not removing empty seashells from our seashore. As hermit crabs grow, they seek bigger seashells to call their new home.

We also focused on conservation. The students were encouraged to become stewards of their local environment, understanding that their actions, no matter how small, contribute to the overall well-being of the seashore. They participated in a brief canyon cleanup of our Manzanita Canyon, which is at the top of the watershed.



*Our Summer Camp students ready to make a positive impact in our canyons!*

By the end of the Summer Camp, our students were not only more knowledgeable about marine life but also inspired to take active steps in protecting it. They understood that the seashore is not just a place for recreation, but a vital habitat that needs our respect and care.