



**OCEAN DISCOVERY INSTITUTE**  
*young lives transformed through science*

DEC  
2024

# 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:

- Ocean Discovery Binational Television Feature - *Page 1*
- ASML Awards Ocean Discovery a \$1.5 Million Grant - *Page 2*
- Scientist in Residence, Mikal Montgomery - *Pages 3-4*
- Spotlight on Key Program Activities - *Pages 5-6*
- Empowering Youth for Climate Resilience and Science Self-Efficacy - *Page 7*
- *SPLASH! 2025 Save the Date - Page 8*

## OCEAN DISCOVERY FEATURED ON BINATIONAL TELEVISION

This month, we proudly shared Ocean Discovery's story in spanish! Thanks to Televisa, our segment aired in San Diego and Tijuana, reaching our Spanish-speaking community on both sides of the border.

Hear from Isabel, our program coordinator, and Araceli, a parent leader, as they highlight our organization and programs. Click the link below!

[\*\*CLICK HERE TO  
WATCH THE STORY\*\*](#)



*Isabel shares Ocean Discovery's history and relationship to City Heights*

# ASML AWARDS \$1.5 MILLION GRANT TO SUPPORT STEM EDUCATION!

We are excited to announce that ASML, a global leader in semiconductor technology, has awarded us a generous \$1.5 million grant as part of its Inclusive Communities focus area! This financial support will allow us to reach more students during the school day and bring new opportunities for students to enhance their math skills and build their confidence in science.

# ASML



*At our Living Lab, students engage in hands-on exploration using state-of-the-art science equipment, developing curiosity and deeper learning*

With this funding, we will be able to reach even more students, providing them with the tools and resources to become the next generation of science leaders. ASML's commitment to STEM education and fostering inclusive communities aligns perfectly with our mission, and we are incredibly grateful for their investment in the future of our students and communities.

Together, we're shaping a brighter future through the power of education and community support! Thank you, ASML!







**Scientist in Residence**  
*Mikal Montgomery*



# THE SCIENTIST-IN-RESIDENCE EXPERIENCE: INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION

*Mikal Montgomery, National Weather Service*

The Scientist-in-Residence program is a mentorship initiative where science leaders spend a week at our Living Lab, engaging with students to inspire curiosity, challenge stereotypes about science, and foster a love for learning.

This past November, we had the honor of hosting Mikal, a meteorologist from the NOAA National Weather Service. Mikal shared his incredible journey, from attending the Air Force Academy to his current role at the National Weather Service, where he not only gathers local data but also has the opportunity to fly into hurricanes to collect vital data. His work helps reduce the financial impact of hurricanes and saves thousands of lives.

Mikal's story reminds us that career paths are rarely linear and that every journey is unique. We are grateful for his time, mentorship, and the inspiration he provided to all of us at the Living Lab. Thank you, Mikal, for showing us the power of perseverance and the endless possibilities in science!



*Mikal with our Ocean Leaders having a one on one conversation about career pathways in science*



*Mikal inspires future science leaders by sharing his journey and insights into climate science careers*

**SIGN UP TO BE A  
SCIENTIST IN RESIDENCE**





Spotlight on Key  
Program Activities



## OCEAN LEADERS VISIT CSU SAN MARCOS

Our Ocean Leaders and their families enjoyed a science-filled visit to California State University San Marcos! From exploring the campus to engaging with current college students, the day was filled with opportunities to experience science in action and learn about what life would look like on a college campus. Parents and students alike were inspired, envisioning themselves thriving as part of the Cougar family.

We are grateful to CSU San Marcos for their warm hospitality and to our families for joining us on this exciting journey. Together, we're building bright futures and empowering the next generation of science leaders!



*Ocean Leaders learn about infrared technology by viewing their own body heat signatures.*

## NOAA VISION COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING

We recently hosted the annual meeting of our National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Vision Council, an incredible group that plays a key role in guiding the strategic partnership between Ocean Discovery Institute and NOAA.

Over two inspiring days, we celebrated our achievements, reflected on our positive impact, and mapped out an exciting future. The meeting left us energized and motivated, ready to dive even deeper into our mission.

We are grateful to our dedicated partners at NOAA for their passion and collaboration.



*Ocean Discovery Staff, Board Members, and our NOAA Partners*

# EMPOWERING YOUTH FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND SCIENCE SELF-EFFICACY

Through a grant made possible by our partners at NOAA, our middle school Students use GIS mapping to analyze carbon sinks in their neighborhood, offering a unique perspective on local environmental issues. By learning about climate change and environmental justice, students gain the knowledge to address injustices affecting their community. They also contribute written reflections to an online newspaper, giving them a platform to voice their experiences. This helps build empathy and resilience, empowering students to become agents of change.

Ameena, Program Coordinator, and Maria Horsley, Research Consultant, represented Ocean Discovery Institute at the 53rd Annual North American Association for Environmental Education Conference! Ameena presented our middle school program, *A Community-Embedded Model for Fostering Science Self-Efficacy & Climate Change Resilience*, while Maria shared valuable insights from our program evaluation and findings.

Together, they highlighted how we're empowering young minds to tackle climate challenges with confidence and resilience. Special thanks to Southwest Airlines, the official airline of Ocean Discovery, for making this trip possible!



*Our middle school students out in the canyon learning about the effects of climate change*



*Ameena presenting on behalf of Ocean Discovery*

# Southwest<sup>®</sup>



# Save the Date **SPLASH!**

**OCEAN DISCOVERY INSTITUTE'S  
ANNUAL FUNDRAISER**

**April 5th, 2025**

**FOUR O'CLOCK**

***Ocean Discovery Institute*  
4255 Thorn St. San Diego, CA 92105**

Join us for *SPLASH! 2025*, an unforgettable evening at the Living Lab.

This cocktail-style event will include drinks and appetizers from our local Mexican Eatery, opportunities to mingle with other Ocean Discovery supporters, alumni, and volunteers, and, of course, chances to hear directly from our students about their experiences!



*More details and a formal e-invitation to follow.*