



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 Leaders are off to College! - *Page 2*
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CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2024

We celebrated our Ocean Leader Graduation this past month! The celebration was attended by family members, Board Members, and college mentors. We heard speeches from two graduates, Domanick, a high school graduate, and Keilly, who graduated from UC San Diego. Both expressed their gratitude for the opportunities found within our programs. In addition, our Ocean Leader Alum, Jared, provided some words of wisdom as our graduates embark on their next adventure.

This evening, we honored 6 High School and 6 College graduates for this significant achievement. In collaboration with the San Diego Foundation, Ocean Discovery awarded scholarships to high school graduates.



Domanick, Hoover High Graduate



Zayra, UC Berkeley Graduate

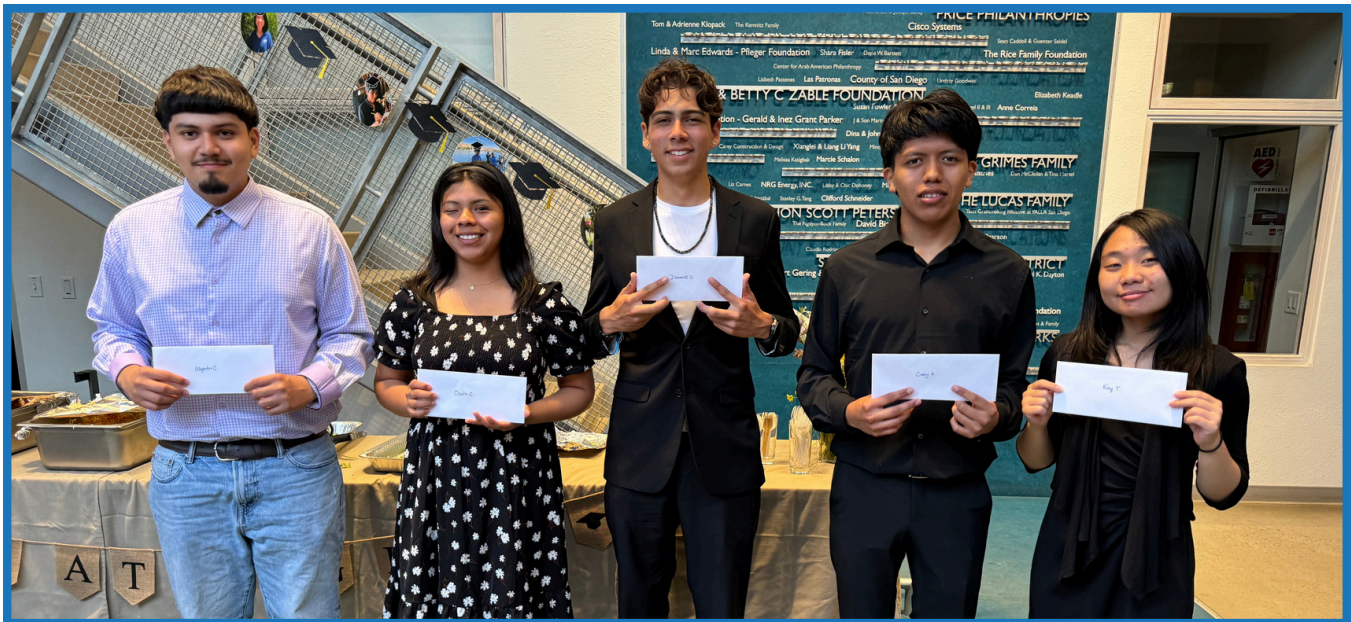
OCEAN LEADERS ARE OFF TO COLLEGE!

As summer arrives, it signals the beginning of a new chapter for our Graduating High School Seniors as they prepare to embark on their college journey this fall! Below is the lineup of institutions our Ocean Leaders will be joining:

- **Alejandro** - San Diego City College, Major in Environmental Science
- **Casey** - San Diego State University, Major in Nutrilogy
- **Domanick** - UC San Diego, Major in Business Psychology
- **Kay** - UC San Diego, Double Majoring in Cognitive Science and Education
- **Osciris** - San Diego State University, Major in Biology
- **Ricardo** - San Diego City College, Major in Archeology

UC San Diego

SAN DIEGO CITY COLLEGE



High School Ocean Leaders Graduating Class of 2024



Support our next cohort of Ocean Leaders by donating to Ocean Discovery on SD Gives Day, happening September 5th. Save the Date!

SPLASH! OUR ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

We hosted our 2nd annual *SPLASH!* fundraiser to support tuition-free science for City Heights students. The event shifted from its traditional black-tie dinner to a more equitable philanthropic fundraising model. We lowered event costs and decreased the price of admission, all to ensure that more of each contribution would go directly to programs and that the entire community of support –from families to donors to partners –could attend.



Guests were excited about the evening's program and learning about our incredible achievements!

We raised \$380,000 thanks to the amazing local leaders in business, academia, and science and the City Heights community members, who came together and contributed at levels that were meaningful to them. Because of their support, the money raised will go directly to provide 100% tuition-free learning experiences for young people traditionally excluded from science.



Guests raised their paddle in support for tuition-free programming

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DR. JOANNA VANCE'S SHARES HER MATH INITIATIVE

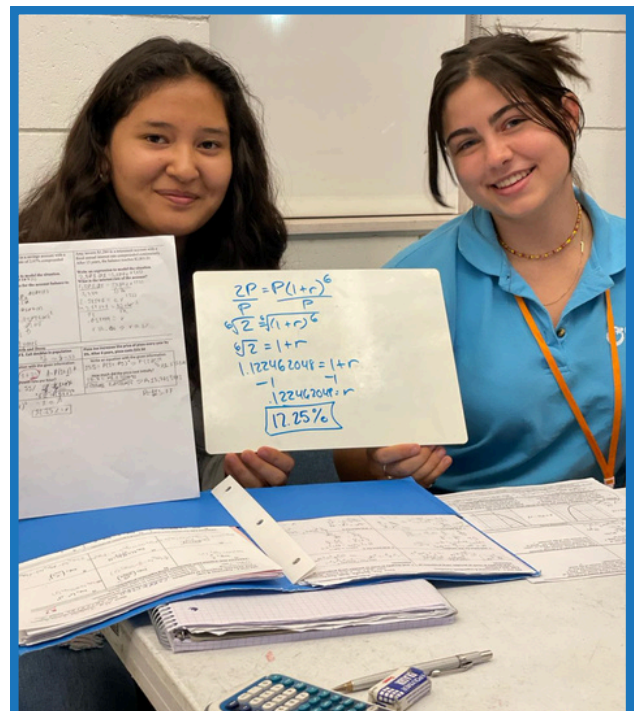
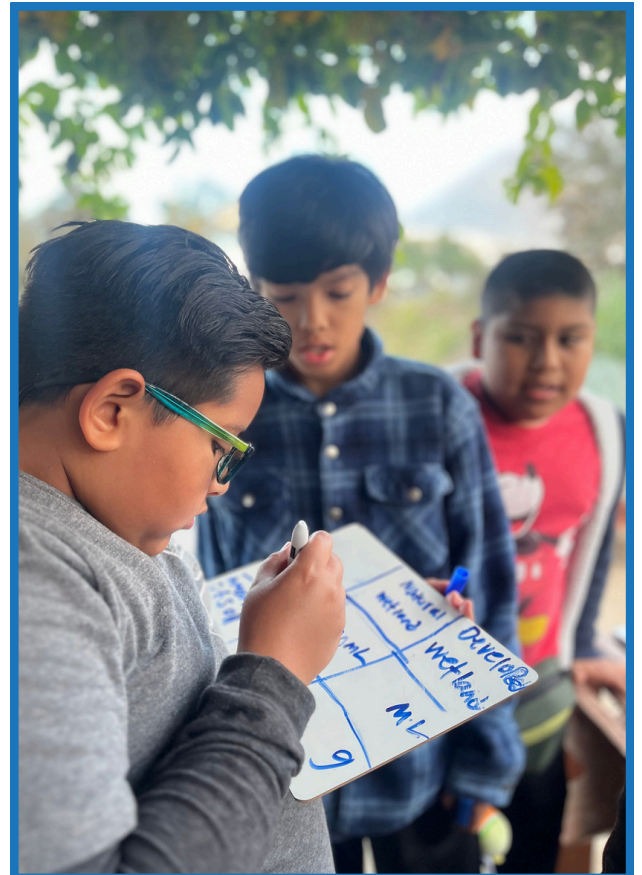
June 2024

Dr. Joanna Vance is our Out-of-School Program Manager. In the following two pages, Dr. Vance shares how Math can be a tool to inspire students to achieve in their educational pathway!

For the past three and a half years, I have been a doctoral student in an Ed.D. program for Educational Justice and Leadership. Before entering the Ed. D. program, I knew I wanted to apply what I was learning and discussing in the classroom to our work in programs with students at Ocean Discovery. So I collaborated with Ocean Discovery leaders, parents, and students to decide on my dissertation topic: *Reimagining Mathematics: Examining the Relationship Between Mathematics Self-Efficacy and STEM*
**Achievement in Underrepresented K-12 Students through Participation in Community-Based STEM Programs.*

After witnessing the increasing opportunity gap our students were experiencing as a result of distance learning during the pandemic, recognizing math is a common barrier to students' entrance and persistence in STEM careers, and seeing Ocean Discovery programs success in fostering belief in science led us to ask the question: **could we create a program that would similarly support our student in math?**

MATH



DR. JOANNA VANCE'S SHARES HER MATH INITIATIVE - PART 2

My dissertation research focused on a math pilot program in our Out-of-School Program; 3rd-8th grade after-school students participated in a five-day math-infused program incorporating our newly developed "10 Math Principles" throughout a wetland ecology curriculum, Wonders of the Wetlands. Importantly, the "10 Math Principles" allowed us (students and staff) to reframe how we think about math, helped us learn how math can be done in a community setting, be used to make a difference in the world, and begin to rehumanize math in a way that communicates that everyone can be "a math person."

The sixty students who participated in the program's pre and post-survey results indicated that they experienced a significant increase in their math self-efficacy (belief) after participating in a five-day program; participating in a community-based science program like Ocean Discovery was an even stronger math belief indicator than current student grades! Students and staff who participated in this program provided valuable feedback to help guide programs in the future; we can't wait to continue this program development in the Out-of-School Program and across the organization!

It's often said that doctoral research can be a pretty solitary academic adventure; collaborating with Ocean Discovery's staff, students, and parents, I never felt that way. Combining both research and practice was an impactful experience for me; to me, it's how we can make an even bigger difference using data (math!) and feedback to guide us in creating impactful programs alongside our community.

