

COSEE OCEAN LEARNING COMMUNITIES

- **Principal Investigators:** Rick Keil, University of Washington School of Oceanography; Phil Bell, University of Washington College of Education; Carrie Tzou, University of Washington Bothell Department of Education; Kathy Sider, Seattle Aquarium; Fritz Stahr, Ocean Inquiry Project
- **Location:** COSEE OLC is based in Seattle, WA
- **Website:** <http://www.coseeolc.net>
- **Collaborators/Partners:** University of Washington; Seattle Aquarium; Ocean Inquiry Project; Washington Sea Grant; SoundView Evaluation and Research
- **Co-Principal Investigators and Key Project Partners:** Center Manager, Susan Bullerdick, Seattle Aquarium Society; Center Evaluator, Andrea Anderson, SoundView Evaluation and Research



Mission: COSEE OLC works toward the goals of the COSEE Network by focusing on two missions. First, it expands social networks by linking ocean science researchers with formal and informal educators, marine organizations, learning scientists, businesses and local governmental agencies. Second, it builds on the first by cultivating and studying interdisciplinary collaborations and how they are most effective.

What We Do: Our overall goal is to develop highly functional models of interdisciplinary learning communities through which current research about the ocean is shared with citizens so they learn to be better stewards. COSEE OLC is currently pursuing three center-mode initiatives to achieve its missions and its overall goal:

- Cultivate and study a marine naturalist learning community by connecting program leaders and volunteers through workshops, presentations, field trips and direct involvement with ocean science research activities.
- Reach in to academia to help scientists with outreach by giving them chances to interact with the broader community, make their research more accessible, and improve the broader-impacts portions of grant proposals. Also facilitate ocean science undergraduate and graduate student understanding about teaching and learning.
- Conduct and communicate research on learning science in diverse communities by educating teachers, volunteers, and scientists about how people learn and study the ways that culturally diverse youth learn about ocean literacy and environmental justice.



Who We Are: COSEE OLC consists of a team of scientists, informal and formal educators and other experts from University of Washington's School of Oceanography and College of Education, the Seattle Aquarium, and Ocean Inquiry Project.

Audience: Ocean and marine scientists, learning scientists, leaders and volunteers of marine organizations, formal and informal educators, local and State governmental agencies, businesses and citizens.

Date Established: Fall 2005

Why We Were Established: COSEE OLC was established to cultivate and study Ocean Learning Communities, which are multi-disciplinary collaborations across many organizations and through which current ocean research increases ocean literacy and enables all citizens to become better stewards of their marine environment.

History: Since 2005 COSEE OLC has worked to create and facilitate ocean learning communities through events and activities attended by many throughout the Puget Sound region. The feedback and participation at these events has resulted in the expansion of the learning community membership, greater scientist involvement, and the development of creative ways to network and shares resources related to ocean science and education.

What We Offer...

COSEE OLC helps engage and connect leaders and volunteers of marine organizations, ocean scientists, and other informal and formal educators in a broad range of programs including:

- Opportunities to share research with a broader audience, and training on effective communication
- Support for developing the broader impacts portion of research proposals
- Opportunities to learn about and participate in ocean research

- Networking opportunities in-person and via the web
- Resources to help improve ocean science teaching
- Access to current research on teaching and learning science

Example Offerings...

- College course: Communicating Ocean Sciences
- Field trips for a wide range of learning communities on a research vessel
- Presentations and resources on teaching and learning science

- Events: An Evening with Sylvia Earle, Creating Connections Workshop, An Evening with a Polar Scientist, Communicating Ocean Science Workshop, Citizen Science Workshop, Celebrating Summer and Ocean Science, High School Science Poster Session and Connecting Scientists, Educators and Citizens.
- Two-day workshop on improving Broader Impact plans & programs
- High-school curriculum regarding student's role in the Puget Sound ecosystem (MyPlace in Puget Sound and SoundCitizen)