A Strategy to Learn How to Build Science Education and Outreach Partnerships

One of three new COSEE centers (COSEE: Centers for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence), Ocean Learning Communities COSEE joins the national network of NSF-funded centers that provide a catalytic environment in which partnerships between ocean researchers and educators flourish. Building on the successes of the existing COSEE centers, the COSEE-OLC will study and practice the skill of building collaborations among the oceanography research community, the science of learning community, informal and formal educators, the general public, and the maritime industry in the Northwest region and the West coast.

National Network of NSF-funded Centers
http://www.cosee.net

- Provides catalytic environment for partnerships between ocean scientists and educators.
- Fosters communication and coordination among ocean science education programs nationwide.
- Promotes ocean science education as a charismatic interdisciplinary tool for improving science education.

COSEE- Ocean Learning Communities Objectives

- Foster collaborations between maritime industry and other businesses, oceanographers, science learning researchers, educators, and the general public,
- Build a common language and understanding of pressing ocean topics so that members from diverse communities can learn and work together to promote ocean literacy,
- Foster non-traditional, ocean-focused strategic partnerships based on a shared and sound scientific approach,
- Catalyze the development of ocean science education at the public level thereby improving citizen understanding of the impact oceans have on their daily life and how individual decisions affect the oceans,
- Study and disseminate models of, how to build learning communities and non-traditional partnerships dedicated to science-based ocean management,
- Oceans and Human Health
- Marine Hazards
- Endangered Resources
- Changing Oceans
- Ocean Sciences
- Science Learning & Education
- Conservation Education
- Maritime Industries & other Businesses

The first community development cycle will focus on human health and the oceans.
If you are interested in this topic, we’d like to meet with you – please contact us at: cosee@u.washington.edu or visit us on the web at: http://depts.washington.edu/cosee

The cycle begins with a widespread solicitation for community involvement, followed by a series of physical and virtual gatherings designed to identify a common educational goal for the community. Signature products, or the outcomes of the community efforts, are designed and produced by each community.

Educational & Research Activities Timeline for One Ocean Theme

Researchers in the science of learning will evaluate and study the successes and challenges of these regional approaches to better understand the development and sustainability of productive partnerships and to develop learning models to share and apply at the national level.

What is a virtual community, and why would you want one?
A virtual community is the gathering of people, in an online “space” where they come, communicate, connect, and get to know each other better over time. Virtual communities can save time and provide asynchronous information flow.

Why do people build virtual communities?
Virtual communities help people express ideas, socialize, distribute documents and work on projects together. Virtual communities have been used successfully to create a better and broader understanding of controversial topics, and to share information on rapidly developing ideas of research findings.

How will COSEE-OLC use virtual communities?
COSEE-OLC will create hybrid communities that meet both in person and virtually. The on-line tools will be used to support the activities of the persons in the community.

What are some other examples of on-line communities?
There are many types of on-line communities. Chat rooms, bulletin boards, Wikipedia, videoconferencing, Yahoo Groups and interactive forums have all been used to support virtual communities.

In-kind Partners

- UW Pacific Northwest Center for Human Health and Ocean Studies
- NOAA West Coast Center for Oceans and Human Health
- Washington State U. – Vancouver WA
- Western Washington U. – Shannon Point WA
- ORCA Academy- Everett CC
- 12 Western Washington K-12 school districts
- American Museum of Natural History

- Learning in Informal and Formal Environment Center
- Seattle Public School District
- Marine Resources Group
- Youth Maritime Training Association
- NW Aquatic Marine Educators
- Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium
- Seattle Rotary Club
- Washington MESA program
- American Seafoods Company
- United Indians of All Tribes Foundation

advancing ocean sciences education