

NOAA Office of Education *Promoting Environmental Literacy*

Introduction



Science On a Sphere, Orlando Science Center
Photo: Orlando Science Center

NOAA's Office of Education provides advice and counsel to the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere in matters pertaining to education. The office, in conjunction with the Education Council, coordinates educational activities across NOAA and develops NOAA's Education Strategic Plan and policy. These efforts help to ensure that NOAA's education programs and activities are based on NOAA science and support the agency's cross-cutting priority of promoting environmental literacy. The Office of Education directly implements and manages scholarship programs aimed at fostering American competitiveness in science by providing quality educational opportunities for the next generation. The Office of Education also offers competitive grant programs at the national and regional level to promote environmental literacy efforts through collaboration with external partners.

NOAA Office of Education Website: <http://www.oesd.noaa.gov/>

NOAA Education Strategic Plan: <http://www.education.noaa.gov/plan/>

NOAA Education Council



Education Strategic Plan, 2009-2029
Photo: NOAA

The NOAA Education Council consists of senior staff members from NOAA's line and staff offices. The Council's primary responsibility is to lead and coordinate NOAA-wide education and outreach activities and priorities, and make recommendations to NOAA leadership on all aspects of NOAA's education efforts. The Office of Education provides staff support for the Education Council. Website: <http://www.oesd.noaa.gov/council/index.html>

Educational Partnership Program

NOAA's Educational Partnership Program (EPP) provides financial assistance, through competitive processes, to students and Minority Serving Institutions that support the training of students and research in NOAA mission sciences. The program's goal is to increase the number of students who are educated and graduate in sciences directly related to NOAA's mission. The program also seeks to increase collaborative research efforts between NOAA scientists and researchers at Minority Serving Institutions. The EPP program consists of the following components: Cooperative Science Centers; Environmental Entrepreneurship Program; Graduate Sciences Program; and Undergraduate Scholarship Program.

Website: http://www.epp.noaa.gov/epp_about_us_page.html



EPP Ph.D graduate in Atmospheric Sciences at a Hurricane Hunter console
Photo: NOAA

Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship Program

This program provides support for undergraduate student training in NOAA mission sciences and teacher education. Awards include academic assistance for full-time study during an academic year; a 10-week internship during the summer at a NOAA facility; and, if reappointed, academic assistance for full-time study during a second academic year.

Website: http://www.oesd.noaa.gov/Hollings_info.html



Hollings scholar giving a research presentation
Photo: NOAA

Dr. Nancy Foster Scholarship Program

In conjunction with NOAA's National Marine Sanctuaries Program, the Office of Education manages the Nancy Foster Scholarship Program. This program provides support for outstanding academic scholars and encourages independent graduate-level research in oceanography, marine biology, or maritime archaeology, particularly for women and members of minority groups.

Website: <http://fosterscholars.noaa.gov/aboutscholarship.html>

Environmental Literacy Grants Program

The Environmental Literacy Grants are competitive national grants focused on creating an environmentally literate public that uses a comprehensive understanding of the role of the oceans, coasts, and atmosphere in the global ecosystem to make the best social and economic decisions. These competitive grants provide funding to an array of educational organizations that reach diverse audiences. The grants support informal and formal education projects, emphasizing partnerships that facilitate the integration of NOAA science into education programs. Website: http://www.oesd.noaa.gov/elg_projects.html



Science On a Sphere,
Thunder Bay
Photo: NOAA

NOAA Science On a Sphere Users Collaborative Network

Science On a Sphere[®] (SOS) is an animated sphere used in museums and science centers across the country, designed to display dynamic images and data of the atmosphere, ocean, or surface of a planet. The NOAA Office of Education formed the SOS Users Collaborative Network to bring SOS institutions together to work collaboratively on establishing best practices for this emerging technology. Website: <http://www.oesd.noaa.gov/network/>



Students at work with the River Center Foundation, a 2008 Pacific Northwest B-WET grant recipient
Photo: River Center Foundation

Bay Watershed Education and Training Program

The NOAA Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) program offers competitive grants to promote locally relevant environmental education opportunities to students in grades K through 12, as well as related professional development for educators. All B-WET funded projects emphasize sustained, hands-on, experimental activities that are aligned with academic learning standards. NOAA B-WET responds to regional educational and environmental priorities through local implementation. The program currently serves Chesapeake Bay, California, Hawaii, Pacific Northwest, Gulf of Mexico, and New England regions. Website: <http://www.oesd.noaa.gov/BWET/>



NOAA Hurricane Education toolkit
Photo: NOAA

Education Outreach Center

Located in Silver Spring, Maryland, the Education Outreach Center provides major support to all of NOAA and its external constituents with education and outreach materials to support various NOAA science-related events. As an example, the center supports the annual NOAA Bring A Child to Work Day through workshop development, coordination, and age-appropriate materials for students. In addition to supporting NOAA exhibits at conferences around the country, the center provides services to broader public audiences that request materials for local training and community events.

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