**Centers for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence**

**COSEE West**

**Mission:** To integrate ongoing research in the ocean sciences with K-12 education and outreach.

**What We Do:** By capitalizing on COSEE West’s established network of ocean researchers and educators, we work to educate the broadest possible audience by:

- Using online services to expand various distance learning models in order to reach a national and global audience
- Continuing to provide societally relevant, scientifically important research via our public lecture series
- Continuing our educator workshops such as our week-long Ocean Observing Systems workshop
- Partnering with institutions such as the Jet Propulsion Laboratory on events like Climate Day that targeted inland, urban school populations
- Providing opportunities for informal science education center staff and volunteers to network and learn from each other and ocean researchers

**Who We Are:** COSEE West consists of a partnership between faculty, researchers, and K-12 and informal educators at the University of Southern California, the University of California at Los Angeles, the College of Exploration, and local school districts, aquariums and museums.

**Audience:** K-12 educators, informal educators, scientists, and the general public.

**What We Offer...**

COSEE West engages teachers, ocean scientists, and informal educators in a broad range of programs, including:

- Lectures, professional development workshops, online workshops, and regional collaborations to enhance ocean science education and increase ocean literacy
- Professional development for teachers that draw on scientists’ expertise
- Guidance for scientists on working with teachers, students, and informal education audiences, as well as opportunities for scientists to fulfill the broader impacts criteria of their research grants

**Example Offerings...**

- Workshops: Ocean Observing Systems, Marine Protected Areas and the Marine Life Protection Act, The Ocean in a Warming Climate, Fisheries and Human Impacts, Algae All Around Us
- Public Lecture Series: Marine Protected Areas, Phase Shifts, Alternative Stable States and Loss of Ecosystem Function in Southern California Lagoons, Anadromous Fish and Our Watershed
- Resources: Videos of our public lectures, field trip guides, lesson plans, an ocean bibliography

**Date Established:** Fall 2002

**Why We Were Established:** COSEE West was established in order to bridge the divide between scientists/researchers and the education community, as well as to catalyze community-based ocean sciences education in the greater Los Angeles area.

**History:** COSEE West has always emphasized the role of research scientists in education; combining their expertise with the classroom know-how of K-12 teachers and informal science educators to create scientifically current, teachable products that could educate a wide-ranging audience.

**Location:** COSEE West is physically based at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles and the University of California, Los Angeles, and virtually at the College of Exploration.

**Website:** [www.usc.edu/org/cosee-west/](http://www.usc.edu/org/cosee-west/)

**Collaborators/Partners:** University of Southern California; University of California, Los Angeles; College of Exploration; Los Angeles Unified School District; Cabrillo Marine Aquarium; Aquarium of the Pacific; Santa Monica Pier Aquarium; Ocean Institute; Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County; Jet Propulsion Laboratory and California Science Center

**Co-Principal Investigators and Key Project Partners:** Peggy Fong and William Hamner, University of California, Los Angeles; Peter Tuddenham, College of Exploration