

A Case Study on Inclusive Opportunities - Amara Davis

In this session, we will highlight the successes and challenges in creating inclusive STEM work environments. We welcome programs that support student and professional entry into the STEM workforce to discuss the strategies they employ to create a welcoming and inclusive environment. Special attention to adding new pathways or improving pathways for underserved communities into the workforce is welcome (e.g., fellowships, internships, entry-level positions, immersive experiences, camps).

Estuary Youth Council: Towards Intergenerational Change Making - Diana Fu

The Estuary Youth Council is a collaborative pilot program spearheaded by the San Francisco Estuary Partnership (SFEP). In its first year, SFEP invited three community-based organizations serving environmental justice communities in Oakland (Mycelium Youth Network), East Palo Alto (Nuestra Casa), and Stockton (Restore the Delta) to co-vision and co-develop the first contingent of young people that would provide youth-centered concerns, perspectives, and priorities to the San Francisco Bay-Delta region's efforts in restoration and adaptation.

“Bi-Coastal Indigenous Youth Coastal Resiliency Collaborative” - Coach Jackson

The Kumeyaay and Payómkawichum nations, communities and people exist 3,000 miles away from the Nanticoke and Leni Lenape nations, communities and people yet have very similar experiences being forcibly displaced from their coastal land and interconnected waterways and barriers in seeking to return. Please join us in community in an interactive experience led by Coach Jules Jackson (Nanticoke/Tidewater People) who relocated to Kumeyaay land in 2015 to immerse herself in meaningful engagement and relationship building and coastal policy and research in order to help support Kumeyaay and Payómkawichum youth and their families reclaim their land and water stewardship birthrights while honoring her Nanticoke and Leni Lenape ancestry and coastal connections.

We will explore the almost decade long journey of capacity building which has culminated in a partnership with the Coastal Defenders Indigenous Leadership Youth program and the Jen Smith Lab at Scripps Institution of Oceanography in the field of Indigenous-led Kelp Restoration, the Tribal Intertidal Digital Ecological Surveys (TIDES) project as well as the creation of the Indigenous Coastal Knowledge Program which includes Indigenous Scientific Diving through Kumeyaay Community College.

Share in the opportunity to more deeply understand the equal valuation and application of Traditional Ecological Knowledge as all four Indigenous communities embark on an Indigenous Aquaculture exploration as they seek to remedy effects of sea level rise through the return of traditional clam gardens and oyster harvesting.

A Social Ecological Strategy for Coastal Resilience in Communities Facing Barriers- Michele Jalbert

Formed in 2021 and grounded in social ecological theory and concepts around civic empowerment, the Providence Resilience Partnership (PRP) developed a catalytic approach to address climate resilience challenges in the Port Area of Providence. Highly vulnerable to storm surge and extreme heat, asthma levels and other health risk measures in the Port Area are the highest in Rhode Island and the Southern New England Region. The presentation will describe and draw lessons from how PRP developed and communicated a community centered SES framework that facilitated grant awards approaching \$2.0 million. The funding is supporting community co-learning, coastal vulnerabilities studies and community empowered resilience action planning. This work along with Providence Port master planning will help address decades of environmental injustices that characterizes the history of the Port Area community in Providence. Moreover, the planning lay the foundation necessary to secure and environmentally sound resilient future for the residents living near the Port Area.

Building Community-Led Climate Resilience - Alicia Lehrer

Residents experiencing the worst impacts of flooding and other climate change-related issues deserve to have the most power and control in determining and developing solutions. The Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council's (WRWC) resident climate leadership program, Nuevas Voces (English = New Voices), comprised of mostly Spanish speaking residents living in Olneyville, the area of greatest flood impact in the Woonasquatucket Watershed, has almost 50 graduates after three years of offering this 10-month cohort learning program. Ten Nuevas Voces graduates joined our next level resident leadership team, Campeones de Combate Climático (Campeones or English = Climate Combat Champions). Now in their second year of this two-year program, Campeones have joined in the planning and design for flood mitigation projects such as a streambank restoration and a neighborhood nature-based stormwater project. In this session, we will discuss the groups progress on these projects and their big plans for deciding the next priorities for their neighborhood to prepare for and combat the ever increasing flooding incidences that challenge their homes and their lives.