

U.S. IODP Education and Outreach: Past, Present and Future

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In the U.S. division of the International Ocean Discovery Program, education and outreach has grown and changed over the past ten-plus years. Spanning diverse audiences and needs, the program has created materials, specific programs and strategies to reach diverse audiences throughout the country, including students, teachers and the general public. Over time, the needs and focus of the program have adapted to existing materials, new needs, new ideas and new teams of alumni and advisors.

The program has engaged educators, scientists, science communicators, social media gurus, artists, filmmakers, students, families, news media, museums and museum-goers. It has utilized professional development workshops, video, websites, live ship-to-shore events, social media, classroom activities and materials, museum exhibits, news media, and much more. Which strategies have been most successful? How do we track our progress and impact? To which audiences and with what strategies should our future be directed?

In early 2018, a U.S.-based community survey was distributed, to gather input on program goals and priorities. The results of this survey and a probable community workshop will contribute to shaping the future of IODP education and outreach in the U.S. In addition, international collaboration with all project management offices continues to grow in importance. Tight budgets and diverse new opportunities all present avenues for creative, out of the box strategies for increasing the profile of IODP.

In this presentation, an overview of the history and evolution of education and outreach in the U.S. IODP office will be presented, in addition to data about effectiveness and impact, and preliminary survey results. Ideas for pathways forward will be presented, with an invitation for input from all participants.