The Mission

The Seacoast Science Center creates personal connections to nature by providing exceptional learning experiences in the marine and environmental sciences. Located in historically rich Odiorne Point State Park the Center serves 60,000 visitors annually with exhibits and programs that interpret the area’s history and habitats. The Gregg Interactive Learning Studio extends the Center’s educational reach across the nation through distance learning. The Center’s premier exhibition Tofu: The Journey of a Humpback Whale tells the real life story of a young humpback and features the only whale skeleton on public display between Gloucester, Massachusetts and Bar Harbor, Maine.

Strategic Partnerships

In 1973, UNH Cooperative Extension managed Odiorne’s seasonal nature center. The success of that venture lead to the creation of the year-round Seacoast Science Center (SSC) in 1992. Since then, the SSC/UNH relationship has grown to a full partnership: there are over 30 points of connection between the two institutions that range in scope from governance and strategic planning to research and education.

Selected Projects

Exhibit Development: Many research grants require public outreach; faculty have found that collaborating with Center staff to create exhibits that interpret their work is not only well received by funders, it actually achieves outreach goals. A classic win-win effort, these projects give the Center access to the most current science to create meaningful exhibits that they could not do on their own.

Distance Learning: In 2007 the Center began delivering distance learning programs (DL). Among the list of DL offerings, two are based on UNH research: ocean aerosols and ocean acidification (OA). The OA program is one of the most popular, requested by schools in Ohio, Florida and Alberta, CA. In addition to connecting to UNH through science content, the Center connects to UNH literally, through the UNH Cooperative Extension/Granite State Distance Learning Network.

Education: The Center conducts marine programs for over 19,000 students each year and relies heavily on volunteers and interns to do so. UNH Marine Docents have been assisting since the 1970s—teaching students and volunteering a many Center community events. UNH interns gain practical experience in a wide range of fields from education and science, to business and marketing.

More info at: www.seacoastsciencecenter.org

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