

# Ocean Filmmaking Camp | Duke Marine Lab



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**ABSTRACT** | A democratic society requires that its citizens are informed of everyday's global issues. Out of all issues those related to ocean conservation can be hard to grasp for the general public and especially so for disadvantaged racial and ethnic groups. **Opportunity-scarce communities** generally have more limited access to the ocean and to science literacy programs. The Ocean Filmmaking Camp @ Duke Marine Lab is an effort to address this gap at the level of high school students in a small coastal town. We designed a six-week summer program to nurture the talents of high school students from under-represented communities in

North Carolina with training in filmmaking, marine science and conservation. Our science curriculum is especially designed to present the science in a locally and globally-relevant context. Class discussions, field trips and site visits develop the students' cognitive abilities while they learn the value of the natural environment they live in. Through filmmaking students develop their voice and their media literacy, while connecting with their local community, crossing class and racial barriers. By the end of the summer this program succeeds in encouraging students to engage in the

democratic process on ocean conservation, climate change and other everyday affairs affecting their local communities. In its first year the program was co-directed by a graduate student and a local high school teacher, who managed more than 20 volunteers with a total budget of \$1,500. The program's success was featured in the local newspaper and Duke University's Environment Magazine. This program is an example of how ocean science can play a part in building a better world, knitting diverse communities into the fabric of the larger society with engaged and science-literate citizens living rewarding lives.

**BY THE NUMBERS** | The Camp was

**6 weeks**

long and involved 50+ class hours:

**30+ hours**

of film training and

**20+ hours**

of marine science and conservation lectures and field trips. Our volunteers included

**20+ speakers**

from 8 local institutions of all types, including academic centers, the private sector and government employees. Our first class was composed of

**6 students**

from 2 local high schools who were in 9-12th grades and represented

**3 heritages:**

Mexico, Japan and China. 2 of our students had limited English proficiency.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS** | We would like to thank Dr. Cindy Van Dover for her guidance and financial assistance, as well as the Duke Marine Lab and our local community for their support.



**MISSION STATEMENT** "Nurturing the talents, identities, and skills of high school students from under-represented communities in Carteret County with training in filmmaking, marine science and conservation."

**OUR IMPACT** | Our innovative community program had impact within and beyond the classroom, on the students and the local community:

- 1 We exposed the students to classroom one-to-one attention and to a university environment for the first time.
- 2 With a hands-on syllabus the students experienced science and film, they were not just told about it.
- 3 We encouraged attitudes of teamwork and respect, and they experienced what it's like to work hard, follow your passions and have fun.
- 4 Our graduating class explored and connected with their community through their work. Their final film projects were service to their community.
- 5 Students started to set higher expectations for themselves as we encouraged them to continue with their studies by exposing them to people that are doing so successfully.
- 6 We opened a new line of collaboration for the different institutions involved.
- 7 This is a high impact, low cost program that is easy to develop and maintain with a budget of \$1,500.



## OUR PARTNERS



OUR CAMP IN THE NEWS →