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Dr. Clarissa Anderson
Executive Director
Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System
Scripps Institution of Oceanography
9500 Gilman Drive, 0206
La Jolla, CA 92093-0214

Dear Dr. Anderson:

On behalf of the Scientific Research and Education Network (SciREN), I enthusiastically offer our support and willingness to collaborate on an educational outreach program related to Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System (SCCOOS) at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California San Diego.

SciREN is a non-profit organization that connects STEM researchers and educators to foster the dissemination of current research and ultimately enhance the science literacy of today's youth. SciREN's approach mainly consists of two annual events. The first is a lesson plan writing workshop where researchers gain the knowledge and confidence to prepare their cutting-edge research for the K-12 classroom. The second is a networking event which allows for researchers to share their lesson plans and create a direct interface between researchers and educators. Additional opportunities are available to have scientists visit classrooms (in person or virtually).

SciREN operates in branches in multiple locations in the United States. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, SciREN-San Diego has been able to successfully launch this year in a completely virtual setting as the first SciREN branch in California. We now have over 80 local educators in our network and are continuing to grow. All SciREN-San Diego lesson plans target specific California Next Generation Science Standards ensuring the utility of our lesson plans for K-12 educators. We will continue to be able to operate in a completely virtual setting for 2021 and beyond if need be while being able to switch to in person events once it is safe to do so.

Our regional-focused approach not only fosters relationships within our local community but also can result in lesson plans relevant to our own "backyards." We believe that in addition to bringing modern STEM research examples into classrooms, providing connections to research relevant to student's communities can build curiosity and excitement about STEM. Lesson plan development based on SCCOOS research and data is a perfect fit for this approach, and we are extremely excited to coordinate with SCCOOS on developing these plans.

We will continue to financially support SciREN-San Diego's efforts via other grants and our donor network. All of our events are free to participate, and all of our lesson plans are freely available on our lesson plan website (SciRENPlans.com) as soon as they are submitted.

We measure outcomes via tracking participation during our events, exit surveys after our events, visits to from our website, downloads of lesson plans, and feedback forms for lesson plans. These metrics ensure that we are continuing to provide researchers with the tools they need to develop lesson plans, meeting educator expectations, and able to improve our services.



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In closing, I am very excited to work with SCCOOS to continue SciREN's mission, and I look forward to our collaborations.

Sincerely,

Dr. Molly A. Matty
Postdoctoral Fellow, Salk Institute for Biological Sciences
Co-organizer for SciREN-San Diego