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November 3, 2020

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 UC San Diego's Center for Research on Educational Equity, Assessment, and Teaching Excellence (CREATE), I enthusiastically endorse the valuable data and services provided by the Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System (SCCOOS) at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California San Diego. I endorse even more enthusiastically SCCOOS efforts to both broaden and deepen their outreach and education impact in our community.

I understand that as a part of typical operations, SCCOOS collaborates with local, state and federal agencies, resource managers, industry, policy makers, educators, scientists and the general public to provide data, models and products that advance our understanding of the current and future state of our coastal and global ocean. SCCOOS focuses on coastal observations and product development to provide the information necessary to address issues on marine operations, coastal hazards, climate variability and change, and ecosystems, fisheries, and water quality. I also understand that SCCOOS is developing plans to expand and deepen their collaborations with local education and outreach providers, in hopes of being able to further contribute to learning, equity in learning, and further disseminating their work and the importance of what they do, in conjunction with setting the stage for stronger educator and student interest and engagement with STEM.

I'm very excited about these outreach and education plans, and believe they align quite closely with our beliefs and mission here at CREATE (<https://create.ucsd.edu/>). We are an interdisciplinary research center committed to increasing national, statewide, and local development and understanding of education-related services, curriculum, and programming, Pre-K to 20. Equity is a through line in all that we do, and we often advocate in particular for low-income and under-represented students. Via our STEM Success Initiative (CSSI; <https://create.ucsd.edu/stem-initiative/index.html>), CREATE has also been instrumental in helping to bridge the gap between UC San Diego STEM departments/faculty and the local PreK-14

education community. We often work with faculty in efforts to better develop and support students through the STEM education pipeline and into careers, and to support their teachers, schools, and districts in their efforts to do the same.

CREATE's Research & Evaluation team has clear and demonstrated expertise in both qualitative and quantitative education-focused research and evaluation. We have successfully served as evaluators on a long list of projects, including grants from agencies such as the National Science Foundation, the Office of Naval Research, the Department of Defense Education Activities, the U.S. Department of Education, the Carnegie Corporation, the Howard Hughes Foundation, and the Spencer Foundation. I am CREATE's Co-Director of Research and Evaluation, and am a quantitative and developmental psychologist with a long history of education-related research. I also have over 20 years of evaluation experience, and have successfully led dozens of evaluations of externally funded STEM-related education programs and have served in a consulting capacity on dozens more.

The SCCOOS team has asked me, as CREATE's Co-Director of Research and Evaluation, to act in a consulting capacity on their expanded work plan—or more specifically, to consult on their education and outreach assessment and evaluation efforts. I'm excited to do so, and look forward to building a stronger collaborative relationship between SCCOOS and CREATE in the future.

In sum, should the current proposal be selected for funding, it is my intent to act on CREATE's behalf in an evaluation and assessment consulting capacity on the education and outreach components of the project.

Sincerely,



Monica A. Sweet, Ph.D.
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