

Ocean Discovery Institute

Ocean Leaders Initiative Evaluation Report 2008

Ocean Discovery Institute verifies the success its programs based on the outcomes of quantitative and qualitative evaluation led by Roxanne Ruzic, Ed.D., a contracted specialist in educational research. Dr. Ruzic received her doctorate in education from Harvard University. She is an education and research consultant and teaches graduate level courses in research methods for Chapman University.

This report includes evaluation results from the Ocean Leaders Initiative, a series of after-school and summer programs provided in conjunction with support services to students in middle school through college. The results provided here include: 1) data gathered from student participants in our 2008 Advanced BAHÍA program, providing high school students with intensive research experiences in Baja California, Mexico, and 2) tracking information gathered from high school and college student participants in the 2007-2008 academic year. The BAHÍA program results include scores on objective science tests administered to assess content knowledge and understanding and data from surveys and interviews measuring attitudinal and behavioral changes. The tracking information is gathered from school records, student surveys and students interviews to follow participation and progress in the areas of academics, college preparation and attainment, major selection, extracurricular involvement, and awards and acknowledgments.

SCIENCE

“Science...[the program] teaches you what’s out there and that you can do it and it’s possible; don’t give up because it seems like it’s hard because it’s not. If you are passionate you can do it.”

–Ocean Discovery Institute High School Student

48 students participated in **7,629** hours of science instruction.

22 high school students participated in **4,195** hours of authentic scientific research.

37 out of 65 (56.9%) high school and college students participated in at least one or more science-related program/internship.

Increasing interest & participation in the sciences among individuals from underserved communities

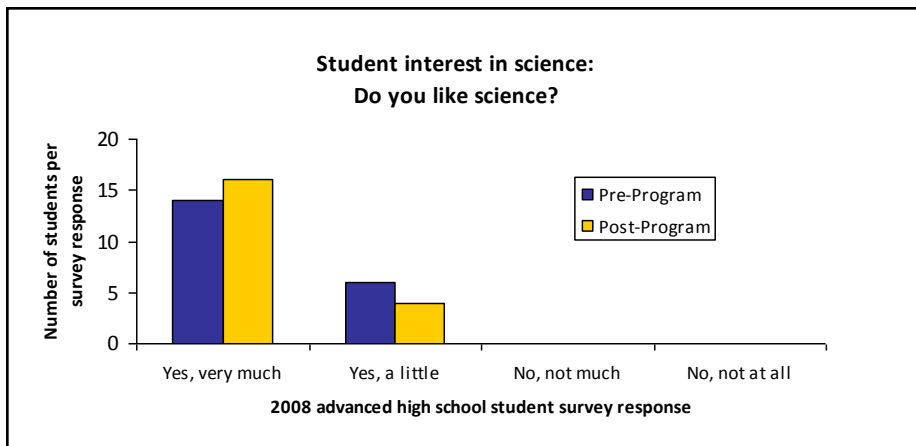


Figure 1. 100% of students said they liked science at the end of the 2008 BAHÍA program. The number of students who reported they like science 'very much' increased by 10% between the beginning and the end of the 2008 BAHÍA program.

Increasing performance & persistence in science by students from underserved communities

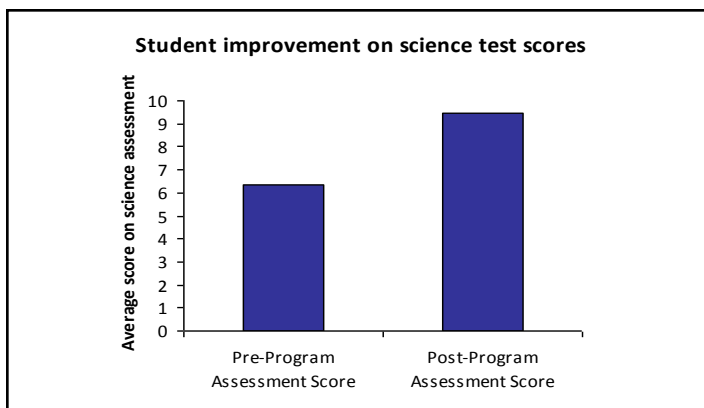


Figure 2. Student scores on objective test of science knowledge and understanding increased by an average of 49% between the beginning and end of the 2008 BAHÍA program.

“We have to apply to colleges and apply for [financial aid] and if it weren’t for college readiness classes I would have no clue how to do it.”
 –Ocean Discovery Institute High School Student

100% of the 2008 graduates are attending college. **90%** of these are attending a 4-year college, including Brown University, University of California, Berkeley, University of California, Santa Cruz, and University of California, San Diego.

23 high school students participated in **2,092** hours of college readiness instruction.

80% of high school students ended the 2007-2008 school year with a cumulative GPA of 3.0

Increasing college attendance & persistence among students from underserved communities

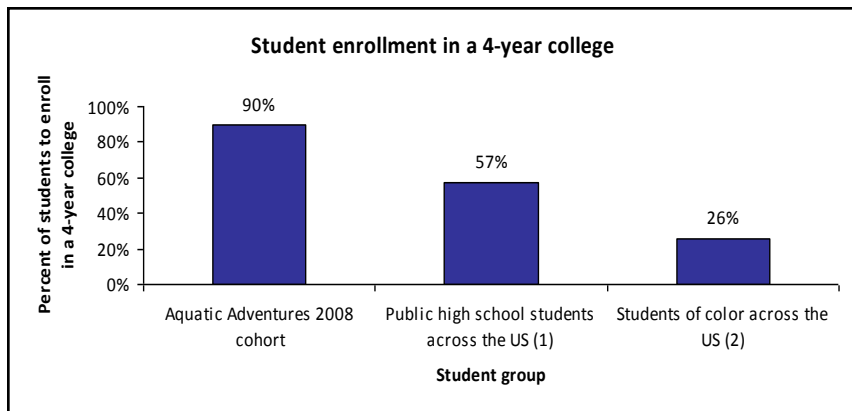


Figure 3. 90% of 2008 SEA Power graduates are attending 4-year colleges as compared to 57% of public high school students and 26% of students of color nationally.

(1) US Department of Education 2008
 (2) US Department of Education 2005

Increasing pursuit of science degrees in college by students of diverse backgrounds

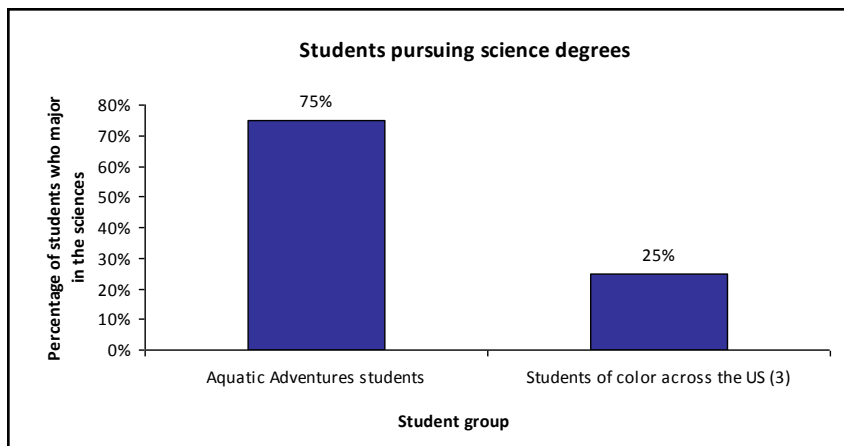


Figure 4. 75% of students who have declared a major have done so in the sciences as compared to 25% of students of color nationally.

(3) US Department of Education 2000

NATURE & ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

“[The program] really changed my life...It helped me to...see myself as a leader in our community...I feel capable of making a change.”
—Ocean Discovery Institute High School Student

48 students participated in 5,865 hours of field experiences in natural settings.
45 students participated in 1,520 hours of environmental service.

Increasing interest in & engagement with the natural world among students from urban communities

- **100%** of students indicated after 2008 BAHÍA the program that they like being in and were comfortable in natural places, with **80%** of students indicating that they like being in natural places “a lot.”

Increasing knowledge & understanding of environmental issues among students of diverse backgrounds

- **100%** of students ended the 2008 BAHÍA program with an awareness of environmental issues. In the interviews conducted at the end of the program, **61%** of the students were able to speak about the environment in terms of cause and effect relationships rather than memorized rules without reasons behind them.

Increasing diversity among those who support and act for the benefit of the environment

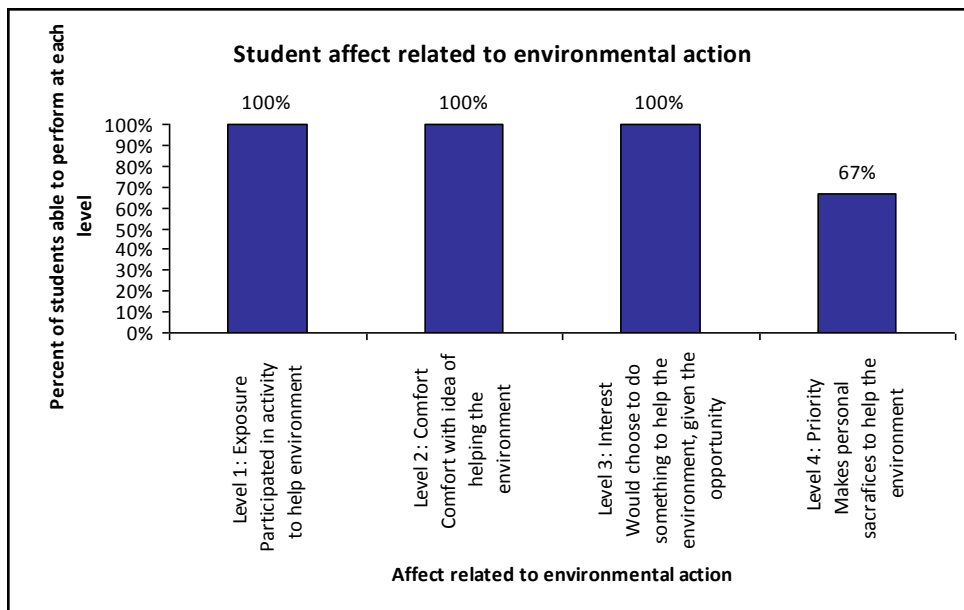


Figure 5. 100% of students ended the 2008 BAHÍA program with an awareness of environmental issues and a belief that people are able to help the environment. 67% reported making real changes and sacrifices to help the environment.