

The Ocean Research Interactive Observatory Networks (ORION) program, which includes the Ocean Observatories Initiative (OOI), is a new initiative being developed by the National Science Foundation's Division of Ocean Sciences to establish a network of research-driven ocean observatories to facilitate research on a wide range of questions in the ocean sciences. The ORION program is presently forming a committee to provide guidance and assistance to ORION in matters of education and public awareness. The committee will assist in and guide preparation of a national strategy and implementation plan, provide oversight during implementation, foster partnerships among educators, researchers and technologists, and serve as advocates for education and public awareness. ORION education will use the research facilities, discoveries, near real-time information streams, and technology innovations of the ORION program to inspire and capture the imagination of all American's as a means to motivate young and old to pursue scientific exploration and discovery within our Planet's ocean. It will use the ORION infrastructure, discoveries, technologies, and data to address key needs of the U.S. kindergarten through grade 16 education system and critical graduate and continuing education issues of the ocean science, technology and observatory workforce.

During 2005, the ORION education and public awareness committee will 1) participate in the development of an education and public awareness strategic implementation plan that is consistent with the published education and public awareness recommendations for ORION, 2) coordinate with other ORION committees such as the cyberinfrastructure and systems planning committees, 3) coordinate with other ocean observatory education efforts (i.e., IOOS) so that they are seamless and with other marine and aquatic education efforts (e.g., IODP, Ridge 2000, COSEE, GLOBE, AMS, etc.), 4) contribute the academic perspective to the development of a comprehensive plan for the ocean observing workforce, and 5) foster mutually beneficial partnerships between researchers, technologists, and educators.

The ORION education and public awareness committee, though small (six members), must possess a broad range of science and technology education knowledge. It will be assembled with consideration of representation of different sectors of the science and technology education community and the ocean and Earth system science education community, specifically. The committee will also seek to achieve a balance of gender, ethnicity, and organizations among the members. Committee members are community volunteers and will participate in at least one face-to-face meeting each year and in frequent teleconferences, electronic discussions, and other virtual meeting fora and activities required to accomplish the above tasks. Travel support will be provided for the face-to-face meetings. Initial appointments to the committee will be for two years and may be renewed for 1 or 2 years.

We encourage nominations (including self-nominations) for this committee from all interested members of the ocean science and science and technology education communities. Nominations should include institutional affiliation, a brief statement of the person's qualifications, and a resume or CV, with references.

Nominations (preferably electronically) should be submitted by **April 24, 2005** to: Dr. Susan Cook (scook@coreocean.org). Alternatively: Dr. Susan Cook, ORION Project Office, 1201 New York Avenue, Washington DC 20005.