

Down the Rabbit Hole

Strategies to consider as you embark on your career

Self -Awareness

Think about yourself and conduct a self-evaluation of what appeals most to you in terms of work habits –

Do you prefer:

- Developing products or working with people?
- Working on teams or being independent?
- Being the expert/authority in a group or facilitating a group of various knowledge levels?
- Working programmatically or need consistent innovation?
- Patience waiting for results or quick turnaround?

Only you can decide where you fall in the spectrum and you may not realize the answers to the above questions until you have some experience behind you.

Philosophy of Education

A philosophy of education is a statement that illustrates an educator's beliefs about education and learning. Have this conversation with yourself, and if you put your statement in writing it should be reflective, personal, and exceptionally clear. Realize also that your statement will change over time to correspond to your developing beliefs, values, views, and approach to teaching.

Keep an up to date portfolio of accomplishments including your philosophy statement, professional development certificates of completion, press releases, images of you in action, letters of reference, college transcripts, professional certifications, notes of appreciation for a job well done, etc

The Importance of Professional Development

Stay on top of your game! Seek out opportunities, attend conferences, join professional organizations, take online courses. Show you care about your professional growth by asking about it in interviews - does the organization value, support and fund opportunities for you to grow?

Affiliate yourself with professional organizations. Become a member of a couple of organizations that are important to you and be the recipient of cutting edge information, journals, and member perks such as publication discounts. Many have their own private listservs that send you updates, connect you with colleagues, and provide news items. Examples include National Science Teachers Association, American Geophysical Union, National Marine Educators Association. Most have reasonable membership fees, including student rates, but the money is a worthwhile investment in your future.

You've Got Mail

Be aware of the power of listservs. Subscribe to a couple that will offer you news on what's happening around the country. Learn about professional development opportunities, connect with colleagues, be a part of the dialogue, share your wisdom, find jobs or at the very least if you're not looking keep abreast of job descriptions and salary scales. Yes, it can be a bear to manage if you don't monitor it weekly or better yet daily, however the information can be very helpful. Use the filters on your email to help you manage the volume.

Suggested listservs for the field of science education:

National Marine Educators Association – scuttlebutt (free, no membership required)

<http://www.vims.edu/bridge/scuttle.html>

Maine Math and Science Alliance – science listserv (free, no membership required)

https://list.terc.edu/mailman/listinfo/maine_science

National Science Teachers Association – elementary, middle, high (must be a member to receive)

Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development – ASCD Smartbrief (must be a member to receive)

Maine Environmental Education Association – MEEA (free, no membership required) contact Tom Mullin tmullin@unity.edu to request subscription

EPO Guide

Consider that spectrum again as you read this document and reflect on where you see yourself. Are you the scientist or the facilitator? This guide offers some starting points and good ideas for how to approach education and outreach as a scientist. The reality is that education is going to be a requirement of research scientists so it's wise to get comfortable with the idea now.

The “Teaching Science by Ocean Inquiry” Effect

This course has allowed you to find some new perspectives on how to learn and how to share your knowledge with others. You've now been exposed to the lexicon of teaching, and while it's just a snapshot of what teaching entails, you will be that much more familiar and comfortable with the context of education.

Another invaluable outcome of this course is the references and activities you now have in your hands. The handouts provided by the instructors are a goldmine of research literature citations. You are a few steps ahead of your future colleagues by taking this course, because you recognize the importance of education and outreach as a natural part of science discovery.

Helpful Links on Ocean Science Careers

COSEE	http://www.oceancareers.com http://www.cacosee.net/careers/
NOAA	http://www.oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/edu/oceanage/welcome.html
NMEA - National Marine Educators Assoc.	http://www.vims.edu/bridge/career.html
MATE – Marine Technology Ed Ctr	http://www.marinetech.org/careers/index.php
Sea Grant	http://www.whoi.edu/science/marinecareers/index.php
General Listing	http://scilib.ucsd.edu/sio/guide/career.html