



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **National Ocean Competition Attracts High School Students to Field of Science 13<sup>th</sup> Annual National Ocean Sciences Bowl to be Held this Month in St. Petersburg, Florida**

(Washington, DC) – At a time when science knowledge is lagging in the United States, a competition that increases students’ interest in this field could not be more important. According to students who are part of the National Ocean Sciences Bowl (NOSB), a program of the Consortium for Ocean Leadership based in Washington, D.C., preparing for and participating in the competition piqued their interest in science and the related fields.

American teenagers are trailing behind their international peers in science and math, according to the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) test. The NOSB, a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) education competition, is helping to counteract this by engaging the nation’s future leaders of the ocean community through buzzer-style, multiple choice questions and longer critical thinking-based team challenge questions on ocean related topics in 25 regional competitions and one national Finals Competition.

The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual National Ocean Sciences Bowl final will be held April 23-25, 2010 at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg and USF’s College of Marine Science in St. Petersburg, Florida. The theme for this year's Finals Competition is “marine technology.”

Approximately 2,000 students from over 300 high schools participated in the NOSB this year through both the 25 regional competitions and the upcoming Finals Competition. Through this educational forum, the NOSB strives to encourage and support the next generation of marine scientists, policy makers, teachers, explorers, researchers, technicians, environmental advocates and informed citizens. According to the 2008 & 2009 Longitudinal Study of NOSB alumni, 77 percent of respondents are enrolled in STEM related degree fields in college.

“I am very proud that this prestigious program has attracted so many exceptionally bright students to test their knowledge of ocean science at such a high level,” said Robert B.

Gagosian, President & CEO of the Consortium for Ocean Leadership. “As the future leaders of our nation, I know this experience will encourage them to strive to continue to understand, conserve and protect our ocean resources for future generations,” continued Gagosian.

The 25 high schools from each of the NOSB regional competitions that will be moving on to the Finals Competition are:

- Aloha Bowl - Punahou School
- Bay Scallop Bowl - Mount Sinai High School
- Blue Crab Bowl - Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School
- Blue Heron Bowl - North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics
- Blue Lobster Bowl - Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School
- Chesapeake Bay Bowl - Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology
- Dolphin Challenge - Langham Creek High School
- Great Lakes Bowl - Dexter High School
- Hurricane Bowl - Poplarville High School
- La Jolla Surf Bowl - La Jolla High School
- Lake Sturgeon Bowl - Marshfield High School
- Loggerhead Challenge - Star Charter School
- Los Angeles Surf Bowl - Arcadia High School
- Manatee Bowl - MAST Academy
- Mountain Mariner Challenge - Poudre High School
- Nor'easter Bowl - Contoocook Valley Regional High School
- Orca Bowl - Friday Harbor High School
- Penguin Bowl - Centerville High School
- Quahog Bowl - Cranston High School West
- Salmon Bowl - Neah-Kah-Nie High School
- Sea Lion Bowl - Mission San Jose High School
- Shore Bowl - Marine Academy of Science and Technology
- Southern Stingray Bowl - Dutch Fork High School
- Spoonbill Bowl - Durant High School
- Tsunami Bowl - Juneau-Douglas High School and Thunder Mountain High School

For more information about the upcoming NOSB Finals and a schedule of events, visit <http://www.oceanleadership.org/education/national-ocean-sciences-bowl/nosb-finals-competition/>.

### **About Consortium for Ocean Leadership**

Ocean Leadership is a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit organization that represents 95 of the leading public and private ocean research education institutions, aquaria and industry with the mission to advance research, education and sound ocean policy. The organization also manages ocean research and education programs in areas of scientific ocean drilling, ocean observing, ocean exploration and ocean partnerships.

### **About National Ocean Sciences Bowl**

The National Ocean Sciences Bowl (NOSB) is a program of the Consortium for Ocean Leadership based in Washington, D.C. NOSB seeks to interest students in pursuing a college degree and future career in the ocean sciences. Through this educational forum, the NOSB strives to encourage and support the next generation of marine scientists, policy makers, teachers, explorers, researchers, technicians, environmental advocates and informed citizens, to consider and appreciate the ocean. Approximately 2,000 students from over 300 high schools participated in 2010.