Ocean Science Educators’ Retreat

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Consortium for Ocean Leadership (COL)

- A Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit member-based organization
- Advances ocean research and technology, education/literacy, and policy through information and advocacy
- Manages and facilitates ocean science, education, & interagency programs
- Convenes and facilitates collaboration between academic institutions, industry, and government entities
- Created through a merger in 2007
  - Consortium for Oceanographic Research and Education (CORE)
  - Joint Oceanographic Institutions (JOI)
Ocean Sciences Educators’ Retreat (OSER)

- 1978 = JOI began to collect and share data on graduate education in the ocean sciences
- 1980 = first biennial retreat to discuss mutual issues and concerns (known as the JOI Deans’ Retreat and later OSER)
- Data collection and OSER are on-going to the present, both organized by the COL
- Annual surveys to member institutions to gather data on recruitment, admissions, and retention from the nation’s leading ocean science and technology graduate programs
- Data are subsequently compiled and discussed at a biennial OSER for graduate deans and other educational administrators
  - Focus of tomorrow’s agenda
Ocean Sciences Educators’ Retreat (OSER)

- The most recent OSER was held in October 2016 in Baton Rouge, LA
  - Thematic focus on graduate student training for professions outside of academia
- 2018 focus on the ocean literacy and the relationship to robust graduate ocean science and academic research programs
  - Keep in mind OSER purpose to discuss issues that cross-cut our graduate education community, that are of concern to all of COL’s degree-granting member institutions
Food for thought...

- How many PhDs do we need?
  - Where do PhDs work? Not just first job out of graduate school, but 5-10 years out?
  - How will geoscience / blue economy growth affect this?
  - How can OSER do better answering this question?
Food for thought...

- Are applications to graduate programs going down?
Food for thought…

- Are the PhD degrees well aligned with workforce needs?

![Graph showing trends in PhD degree distribution over years, with categories for different fields such as Marine Biology, Marine Chemistry, Physics, Ocean Engineering, and Others.](image-url)
Questions?