

Design for Equity, Community, and the Ocean (DECO) Educator Institute

Join us for a hands-on professional learning institute for k-12 educators focused on integrating design thinking and maker education while centering equity, the environment, and community. Participants will explore tools in our Innovation Lab, engage with Liberatory Design, and plan inclusive, future-ready STEAM learning experiences aligned to NGSS.

Residential Summer Institute:

Sunday, June 21 - Friday, June 26, 2026

The institute, housing, and three meals per day are provided free of charge.

Local Educator Institute:

Monday, July 6 - Friday, July 10, 2026

**Required Saturday Follow ups: Oct 24, 2026; Feb 6, 2027;
May 1, 2027**

The institute, follow up workshops and coaching sessions are provided free of charge.

Scan or click the QRC to learn more and apply



Important Dates

Feb 10 - Applications open

Mar 6 - Applications close

Early April - Admission decisions sent out

Mid April - Deadline to confirm attendance

Educators will receive a stipend for their participation in these institutes. CEUs are available for purchase through California State University, Monterey Bay.

Supporting Local Educators

Join us as we dive into ways formal and informal education can come together in collaborative learning, innovation, and authentic science experiences.

The local offerings this year are a collaboration between the Monterey Bay Aquarium and the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District (MPUSD).

Elementary Educator Institute



Conduct your own field investigations, and see firsthand how authentic science can ignite curiosity in your learners. We will explore integrating SEL with science and equitable teaching practices to improve learning across multiple disciplines.

Summer dates:

June 15-17, 2026 (Mon. - Wed.)

Required Saturday follow-ups:

October 17, 2026; January 23, 2027; April 24, 2027

Secondary Educator Institute



Explore ways to bring design thinking and maker education into your teaching, using science to meaningfully engage students in experiences connected to their local community. (And have some fun in our Innovation Lab while you're at it!)

Summer dates:

July 20-22, 2026 (Mon. - Wed.)

Required Saturday follow-ups:

November 14, 2026; January 30, 2027; April 24, 2027

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Mar 6 - Applications close

Early April - Admission decisions sent out

Mid April - Deadline to confirm attendance

Educators will receive a stipend for their participation in these institutes.

CEUs are available for purchase through California State University, Monterey Bay.

Priority acceptance to both institutes will be given to educators in MPUSD.