

The Center for Ocean
Leadership's role in promoting
and addressing decadal
priorities.

Sonya Legg
COL Director



Overview of the Center for Ocean Leadership at UCAR

COL **connects**, **convenes**, and supports **collaboration** within the ocean science, technology, and education community, represented by a network of affiliate institutions from academic, non-profit, and commercial sectors.

Key Programs

Ocean Observing



Education

National Ocean
Sciences Bowl



COL has been a community program at UCAR since October 2022.

Staff: 8 staff total, including Director, located all around the US (not Colorado)

Affiliate network: 90+ institutions, no fee for affiliation.

Funding: NASA, NOAA, NSF, ONR, Schmidt Ol, private donations.

COL's affiliate program

Bi-monthly newsletters: Include DC updates provided by UCAR's DC-based government relations team, news and opportunities from affiliates. Supplemented by LinkedIn and email communication.

COL virtual discussion forums: Approximately 2 forums per year, reports available on UCAR's OpenSky repository.

Past forum topics:

- Sustaining and Modernizing the Ocean Observing System
- Fostering a Diverse and Inclusive Ocean Workforce
- Strategic Communications for the Ocean Community in a time of Uncertainty.

COL affiliate visits to Capitol Hill: 1-2 visits per year, with small cross-sector groups of affiliates, to communicate key points from virtual forums. Organized in close collaboration with UCAR government relations.

Surveys: Regular community surveys to identify needs and priorities.

Townhalls: Annual townhalls at AGU and/or OSM

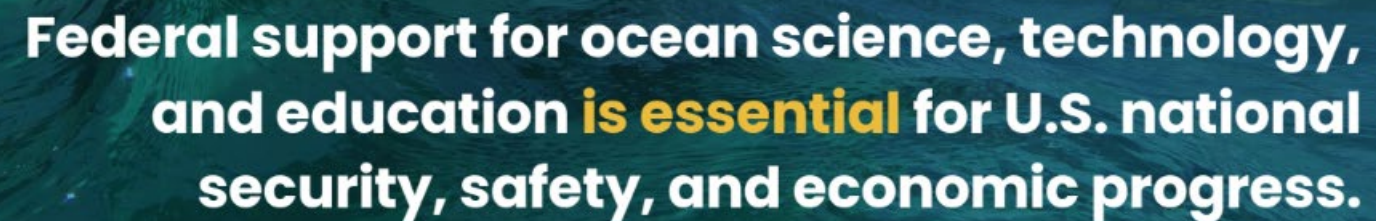
Affiliate activities receive no direct funding – no fee for affiliation.

Affiliates continue to express a need for COL to bring a wide range of community voices to DC.



COL's 2025 affiliate visit to DC

- **Key points:**



Federal support for ocean science, technology, and education **is essential** for U.S. national security, safety, and economic progress.

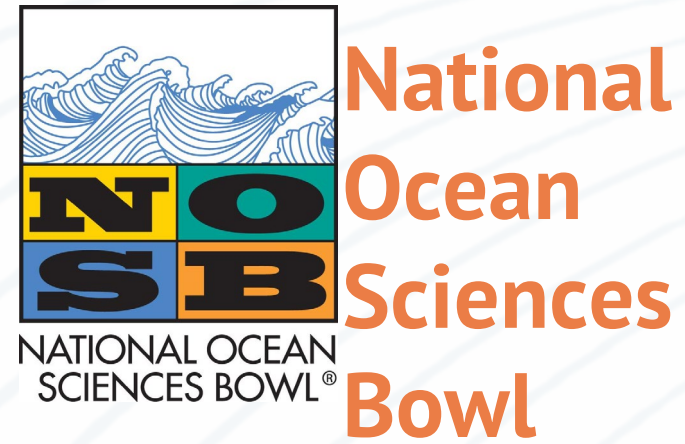
- Importance of continued investment into ocean technology and infrastructure
- Need for sustained ocean data collection and stewardship
- Importance of ocean data to security, trade, hazard mitigation, economy
- Risks of a diminished ocean workforce due to disrupted pipelines and loss of expertise

- **Meetings included:**

- Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, Coast Guard and Fisheries subcommittee (majority)
- House Science, Space, and Tech Committee, Environment subcommittee (majority)
- Staffers for several key Republican representatives.

- **Attendees: Sonya Legg, Rich Coffin (Texas A&M-CC), Reide Corbett (East Carolina U), UCAR gov relations team.**

COL's funded programs: connection with decadal priorities



- **Workforce development-** High school competition with fast-paced quiz format, with 18-25 regional competitions hosted by COL's partners around US.
- 28+ year history, >40K alums
- Fills an important gap in high school education, entraining talented motivated students into ocean science and future workforce.



Ocean Observing Programs



- **Support for emerging technologies** – coordination of Underwater Glider User Group, Surface Uncrewed fleet network.
- **Focus on Coordination and Convening**, in support of Integrated Ocean Observing System, Interagency Ocean Observation Committee, UN Ocean Decade Coordinating Office for Ocean Observing.

