



USC University of Southern California

Marine and Environmental Biology

URGE Policies for Working with Communities of Color for University/Organization

This is what was found by USC Marine Environmental Biology POD on Policies for Working with Communities of Color as well as plans for improved processes and/or needed resources.

Pods may have members from a range of career stages and involvement in the development and execution of research projects, and pod members may have different experiences or different perspectives when responding to these questions. Consider this in the summary document and focus on capturing responses that are representative of the range in your pod.

- **On local collaborations and interactions:**

- Only a few members of our pod could reference interactions and collaborations with local communities.
 - One member cited a project in a freshwater lake and involving the local tribes throughout the planning process. The objectives were outlined to tribe leadership. It wasn't made clear if proper introductions were made as we learned in this week's readings.
 - USC "[good neighbor](#)" initiative to engage with the local community through outreach in order to have a positive impact on the neighborhoods surrounding both campuses
 - The USC Wrigley Marine Science Center of Marine Science on Catalina Island has a land acknowledgement on their website. Additionally, Wrigley is looking to develop something similar to <https://thrivingearthexchange.org/>; a place to ID local needs and how we can contribute.
 - One member cited that Mexican oceanographers required for work in the Mexican EEX are typically regarded as "independent" and their science does not interface directly with ours. They are not part of the planning process

- **Concluding remarks:**

Overall, the members in our pods had little influence in collaborations (usually at the PI level). Only a handful of us had direct experience with the type of field work that would require interactions with local communities. However, we felt that community engagement should be incentivized. The NSF could do more to support this by requiring some sort of inclusion or other statement where researchers have to clarify HOW they're going to engage with communities of color or indigenous communities when they propose international or work on indigenous lands.

There ARE good examples of funding bodies in the US that do a good job of cultural exchange - e.g. the Fulbright program really emphasizes cultural education. Also, trainings on how to show respect to local communities should be taken moving forward.