



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
Office of Ocean Exploration and Research

# Online Professional Development

## Why Do We Explore?

October 5 – 16, 2009

### Why Explore?

All life on Earth relies on the ocean—yet, the ocean is 95 percent unexplored, largely unknown and mostly unseen by human eyes...

To understand, manage and protect the ocean and its resources, NOAA believes it is critical to support a systematic program of ocean exploration, using the best of ocean technology to explore, discover, inform, educate, and motivate.

The NOAA Ship *Okeanos Explorer* is a new and valuable asset with great potential to help us understand more about our largely unknown ocean.



NOAA Ship *Okeanos Explorer*: America's Ship for Ocean Exploration. Image credit: NOAA. <http://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/okeanos/welcome.html>

This two-week online professional development offering will introduce participants to the new Education Materials Collection for the NOAA Ship *Okeanos Explorer*, the first Federal ship dedicated to ocean exploration. Entitled "Why Do We Explore?," this offering has been designed to include a Keynote Address by ocean explorers who have made significant ocean discoveries, inquiry-based lessons for all grade-levels, and facilitated online reflective conversations about the importance of ocean exploration on a global scale. Areas of focus include climate change, ocean health, human health and energy.

Participants will include formal and informal educators, ocean explorers, scientists, and other interested members of the public. Opportunities to engage with ocean explorers and other participants will be provided. The *Why Do We Explore?* Leader's Guide and its associated lessons, a wealth of other supporting resources, and optional graduate credit are also provided. The following is a breakout of activities for Weeks One and Two:

#### Week One – October 5 - 9, 2009

- Welcome and Introductions
- Keynote Address:
  - Dr. Charles Fisher**, Professor of Biology, Eberly College of Science at The Pennsylvania State University
  - Dr. Shirley Pomponi**, Executive Director, Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution at Florida Atlantic University
  - Dr. Edith Widder**, Senior Scientist, Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution at Florida Atlantic University, Cofounder, Ocean Research and Conservation Association (ORCA)
- *Why Do We Explore?* Leader's Guide
- *To Boldly Go...* Initial Inquiry Lesson
- Introduction to Climate Change and Lessons

#### Week Two – October 10 – 16, 2009

- Introduction to Energy and Lessons
- Introduction to Human Health and Lessons
- Introduction to Ocean Health and Lessons

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*This professional development offering is a collaboration between NOAA's Office of Exploration and Research and The College of Exploration.*