

The WHOI Bridge Lecture Series A Pilot Program

The Diversity Committee of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) proposes the establishment of the Bridge Lecture Series. The purpose of this lecture series is to promote two-way interaction between WHOI and institutions with a strong commitment to diversity in an effort to expand the awareness of WHOI and its mission within diverse scientific and academic communities. An additional goal of the program is to stimulate ideas within WHOI on how WHOI as an organization can be strengthened and enhanced through greater diversity. The long-term objective of this program is to stimulate professional interest in oceanography and in WHOI among students from diverse backgrounds.

The program provides support for WHOI staff to present talks as outlined below. An initial pilot program would run for a period of three months and support participation by two WHOI personnel.

Participation

A WHOI Bridge Lectureship will include the following components:

1. The WHOI visiting lecturer will provide an overview of WHOI mission and educational programs to students and staff of the hosting institution;
2. An appropriate representative will provide an overview of the hosting institution to the WHOI visiting lecturer;
3. After the visit, the WHOI visiting lecturer will brief the WHOI Diversity Committee on the visiting experience via an oral or written report.

The hosting organization agrees to:

1. Organize at least two group events designed to foster exchange;
2. Provide housing accommodations for the WHOI visiting lecturer, where possible.

Promotion

The WHOI Bridge Lecture Series will be promoted via the following efforts:

1. The Diversity Committee will invite participation in the WHOI Bridge Lecture Pilot Program via announcement on WHOI Headlines and/or presentations to WHOI departments.
2. Potential partnering institutions will be contacted and invited to host a WHOI Bridge Lecturer.
3. WHOI personnel with pre-existing plans to speak at appropriate universities and institutions are encouraged to participate in the Bridge Lecture Pilot Program.
4. Full or supplemental funding will be provided to support WHOI personnel to engage in the Bridge Lecture Pilot Program based on availability.

Program evaluation

At the end of the Pilot Program, the WHOI Diversity Committee will assemble a report evaluating the impact of the program and share it with WHOI leadership.