



The Stone Soup Leadership Institute's Cronkite Oceans Initiative & The Blue Economy

The Institute announced our Cronkite Oceans Initiative at the 2024 Cronkite Oceans Award ceremony in New York City. It was timed to Climate Week NYC and the U.N.'s General Assembly to spotlight The U.N. Goal #14 • [Life Below Water](#) and the [U.N. Ocean Decade](#) - *The Science We Need for the Ocean We Want*.

Our Showcase: Building a Blue Economy Ecosystem & Workforce Development Pipeline The Institute's Blue Job Shadow Day and SustainWDN™

To further the Institute's Cronkite Ocean Initiative, we are creating a showcase to demonstrate how Blue Economy companies can collaborate with academic institutions to develop a workforce development pipeline. The Institute's Blue Job Shadow Day 2025, held in partnership with College of Marin's Environmental Action Club built on three decades of hosting Job Shadow Days in communities across the country. This career-focused event brought together Blue Economy industry leaders from companies and organizations educational to enlighten students, educators, and academic leaders about local workforce development opportunities - internships, jobs, certificates - for students to explore and pursue in the Bay Area community.

College of Marin students are now piloting SustainWDN™ to explore Sustainable Career Pathways that can lead to well-paying jobs in Blue & Green Economy. Through this Platform, they will discover real-world examples of sustainable careers, guiding them toward jobs that focus on protecting, preserving, and rebuilding the planet. They will connect with young people from 38 countries, featured in the *Stone Soup Climate Education Curriculum*, who have developed sustainability innovations. The Institute has been testing SustainWDN™ with high schools, Blue Economy companies, and community colleges in New England since 2018. This Blue Economy Showcase at the College of Marin is the first designed specifically for community college students. The Institute's goal is to scale this prototype to community college students statewide and globally.

The Institute's Blue Job Shadow Day could spark an ongoing exploration of the Blue Economy, including topics such as blue tech, blue finance, marine biology and research, clean water management, and sustainable fisheries. We invite potential supporters and funders to join us to invest in Marin and Bay Area young people and support this exciting sustainable economic initiative.

Dr. Jonathan Eldridge, President, College of Marin

Stone Soup Model: Building Bridges

For the last 28 years, the Institute has worked with coastal communities and islands around the world: from Martha's Vineyard to Newport, Rhode Island, and other New England coastal communities, to the islands of Hawaii, Vieques (Puerto Rico), the British Virgin Islands, and the Philippines. We've built bridges with local companies, government, education, and community leaders to develop strategic initiatives, and public-private partnerships that empower young people to become leaders of sustainable communities.

Living and working alongside these island peoples, we've seen firsthand the impact that climate change is having on these fragile islands. Coastal erosion from hurricanes and typhoons is ravaging their coastlines and wiping out villages and even whole islands. Rising temperatures are killing their coral reefs, depleting fish, and their food supply. Their beautiful beaches are being covered with plastics and trash. Their fragile ecosystems are being attacked on every level. They are on the front lines of this global crisis.

At the Institute's Annual Sustainability Summits, youth leaders have been coming together for 19 years to share stories about the challenges facing their islands; and they've exchanged their ideas for sustainable solutions. During this week-long intensive summit, island youth have developed a deep bond which has given them the courage to be ocean champions when they return to their communities. It was a great honor when some of these youth leaders later joined future Summits as faculty, to train the next generation. They have become leaders on their islands and have laid the foundation for the Institute's educational resources to inspire others around the world to flourish.

What We Have Learned from All These Island Communities is that they lack the educational resources to prepare their youth for the ever-changing realities of our world. As a result, the Institute has offered all of our educational resources and training programs to these communities at no charge. We are painfully aware that those who are most adversely by the climate crisis - and are the most in need of these educational tools - are the least able to afford them.

With the **Institute's Oceans Initiative**, we are gearing up to scale our educational tools and trainings with the *Stone Soup Climate Education Platform* so that educators on these islands and then around the world will have **FREE** access, so they can in turn prepare *all* young people to build a more just, equitable, and sustainable world.

**There are 10 million new jobs in the sustainable economy.
Students can learn how they can navigate this whole new world.
Explore Sustainable Career Pathways**

Just imagine...they could be a champion to help clean up the planet.

Just Imagine if all young people could learn about **Cronkite Award for Ocean Champions** recipient Henk Rogers, and his Blue Planet Alliance, and the other champions featured in the book *Stone Soup for a Sustainable World: Life Changing Stories of Young Heroes*. Ocean Champions like Hawaii's Nainoa Thompson and the *Hokule'a*; Jasper Ralph, Plastic Free MV of Martha's Vineyard; Daniela Fernandez, of the Sustainable Ocean Alliance; Perry Raso, of Matunouk Oyster Farm in Rhode Island; Angelique Pouponneau, of SYAH-Seychelles; Gary Benchehib, of Bali; Cruz Erdman, New Zealand; James Ellsmoor, of Island Innovation; and François van den Abeele, of Sea2See.

We invite strategic partners and funders to join with us for first our national, then our global launch in 2025. We're in this together, and everyone's help is needed. In this way, we will honor Mr. Cronkite and his insurmountable spirit, creating a future that the next generation will be proud to inherit. Learn more here: [link](#).