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# Place-Based Learning Symposium

December 1-3, 2010

New Bedford, MA

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## Learning Symposyums



NEW BEDFORD WHALING MUSEUM

18 Johnny Cake Hill • New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740-6398  
508 997-0046 • [www.whalingmuseum.org](http://www.whalingmuseum.org)



## Place-Based Learning Symposium 2010

To register, complete this form and mail to: New Bedford Whaling Museum,  
18 Johnny Cake Hill, New Bedford, MA 02470-6398

Lecture Cost: Free | Dates: December 1-3 2010

Please select dates attending:

- December 1  
Dinner Reception, and Keynote 6:30pm
- December 2  
8:30am-4:30pm (Lunch Included)
- December 3  
8:30am-3:00pm (Lunch Included)
- All Dates

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

# Learning Symposium



## About

Place-Based Learning connects students to their immediate surroundings and heritage. This method, sometimes called “pedagogy of place” allows individuals to teach and learn through observation and doing, using personally relevant resources as the context for their academic growth. Museums, cultural centers, and many other non-traditional learning centers hold a world of educational, historical and cultural materials and experiences that enlighten all who visit them. Coinciding with traditional education practices, Place-Based learning centers possess the potential to enrich the learner’s experience and make difficult concepts to understand more clear.



Place-Based Learning brings forth several questions. How does Place-Based Learning compare to other models of teaching? Is it the best method to reach today’s

youth? How do we evaluate its effectiveness? Can informal learning centers be leaders in the creation and promotion of effective Place-Based Learning programs?

The Place-Based Learning Symposium seeks to provide participants with a unique opportunity to gather and discuss all aspects of place-based learning. Its goal is to focus on the different interpretations, benefits and drawbacks of place-based learning, as well as ways to assess and evaluate its effectiveness. Additionally, this event will also pose the opportunity to study the different methods and tools that other institutions implement in their education programs.

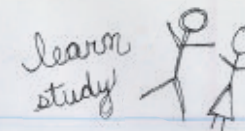
## Wednesday Evening, December 1

As Secretary of Education, **Paul Reville** directs the Executive Office of Education. The Secretary oversees the three education agencies of the Commonwealth - the Department of Early Education and Care, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and Department of Higher Education - as well as the University of Massachusetts.

Paul will use his vast experience to help set the stage from the perspective of the Office of Education and State of Massachusetts on the future goals of education for our students and educators.

## Key Notes

# December 1-3, 2010



## Key Notes

### Thursday, December 2

**Larisa K. Schelkin**, CEO & President and Co-Founding Director of the Diversity and Outreach in Math and Engineering (DOME) Foundation, Inc. Prior to her position with the DOME Foundation, Inc. Larisa served as the Special Assistant to the President for Diversity at WIT in Boston, Massachusetts, and also as the Director for the Center for Diversity and Inclusive Leadership at Tufts University in Medford, Massachusetts.

Larisa will discuss how her organization is using current educational techniques to reach a variety of youth across the state.

### Friday, December 3

**Jerrell Cassady** currently works with the National Park Foundation to examine the effect of environmental education programming on developing an environmental ethic and appreciation for the outdoors for children from urban centers. Dr. Cassady is a recognized expert in program evaluation for educational programs and he has produced the Academic Anxiety Research Consortium, which he directs.

Jerrell will discuss his current research and provide a framework for designing and evaluating place-based learning models.

**Jack Crowley** is the Co Director of the Connecting Oceans Teacher Academy ECHO Project at the Ocean Explorium at New Bedford Seaport and the Center for University, School and Community Partnerships at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. Jack is Executive Director of Massachusetts Marine Educators creating new science and technology education outreach opportunities for students and teachers in K-12 schools in the Northeast with a special emphasis on the Southcoast of Massachusetts.



**Virginia K. Freyermuth** is an Assistant Professor of Art Education at Rhode Island College and has been an art educator to all grade levels, from K-12 to college and adult, for 35 years. She has a Master of Fine Arts Degree and a Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Studies with a Concentration in Art Education.

Virginia and Jack will discuss a Connecting Oceans Academy program that uses place-based education as a model for providing content to teachers and empowering students with the skills of weaving together art and science in their local community.

# Learning Symposium



## Agenda

### Wednesday, December 1st | 6:30 - 8:30 pm

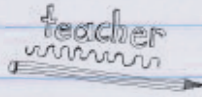
- Dinner
- Conference Opening
- Keynote Reception

### Thursday, December 2nd | 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

- Keynote Breakfast
- ECHO Panel
- Lunch
- Concurrent Session Tracks 1 and 2

### Friday, December 3rd 8:30 am - 3:00 pm

- Keynote Breakfast
- Regional Focus Breakout Groups
- COA Presentation
- Lunch
- Keynote
- Field Trips



## General Sessions

The Symposium will be divided into two themed tracks that will run concurrently. The tracks will highlight either History and Culture or Science. You may select one track or move between the two as the symposium progresses. Additional sessions will be open to all participants and do not fall in the track category.

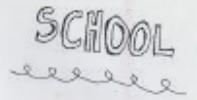
### ECHO - Education through Cultural and Historical Organizations Panel Discussion

Panelists from the ECHO partners, representing Alaska, Hawaii, Mississippi and Massachusetts will discuss the role of place-based education as a tool for working with native, indigenous and minority students. The session will allow for a comprehensive discussion that focuses on the benefits and issues educators face while trying to provide excellent programming for a diverse group of students. Successful models that can be nationally replicated will be highlighted.

### The Connecting Oceans Academy: A Model and Template for Context-based Teacher Professional Development

Place-based education relies on a connection to local activities, resources, people, histories and cultures. For coastal states an exceptional multi-disciplinary

# December 1-3, 2010



learning opportunity is represented by an ocean-themed program. But is this realized in practice? What about land-locked states? The ECHO Program's Connecting Oceans Academy has developed a professional development program that weaves together State learning standards and Ocean Literacy Standards, within an immersive, relevant and attainable local context. This successful model is readily adaptable to any State or place; generating a program that draws on regional resources to make it locally relevant.

### Regional Focus Groups

Participants will be provided an opportunity to meet with educators, administrators and informal education specialists from their local area. The purpose of this session is to provide time for participants to form connections and partnerships with individuals and organizations within their region. These round table discussions will provide participants with an opportunity to use the ideas generated through the symposium to begin establishing programs or learn about and begin to utilize local resources.

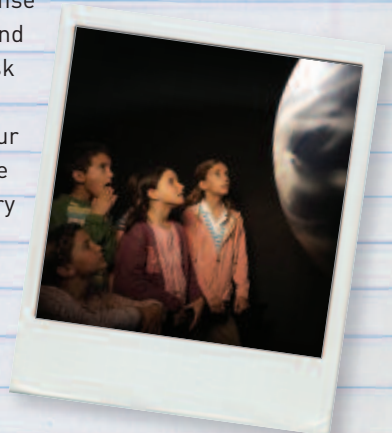
## History & Culture Track 1

### Hidden History: Place Based Learning in New Bedford, MA

The New Bedford Historical Society has presented place-based learning activities for residents of New Bedford, MA for over 10 years. The Society is a grassroots community organization with a focus on preserving and celebrating the history of African Americans, CapeVerdeans, Native Americans and other people of color in New Bedford, MA. NBHS programs combine local history with the arts, music, geography, and field trips to cultural venues in the region. These programs connect our youth to their own cultures and history.

### Guts, Gore and Glory: Ships Doctor's Box 1812.

Starbase Atlantis is a Department of Defense sponsored program to raise the interest and improve the knowledge and skills of at-risk youth in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. We will describe how our relationship with Starbase Atlantis and the educational program, Guts, Gore, and Glory are examples of place based learning, as the children, all of whom are local students, most of whom have never been to the museum, are able to experience American and Naval history right in their own neighborhood.



# Learning Symposium



## Maritime History and Literacy Curriculum: A Museum/School Collaborative Project

This presentation will describe how Penobscot Marine Museum has used its resources to create a unique place-based curriculum for elementary students. Given the critical importance of basic literacy, the museum has embedded activities that reinforce these skills into 15 maritime history units: Shipbuilding, Fisheries, Life at Sea, Maine and the Orient, and more. The presentation will describe the process that led to the creation of the curriculum, give specific examples of how we have integrated literacy skills, and discuss our models of implementation, assessment, and dissemination.

## Science Track 2

### Students, Scientists and Sense of Place

This session will present a case study of Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences' Keller BLOOM (Bigelow Laboratory Orders of Magnitude) Program. Program participants are immersed in the lab and field environments, and develop lasting connections to both places. BLOOM evaluation results show that two thirds of participants go on to pursue academic and career paths in science, and most of those choose to do so in Maine.

### Grounding Your Curriculum Standards in the Community

The Global Learning Charter Public School has implemented place-based learning into their curriculum. This session will allow teachers to look at their own local community for issues, ideas, and learning opportunities that can be linked to their state standards. Place-based learning allows students to get authentic data, meet with members of the community, make real-world connections to material taught in the classroom and have an opportunity to present their findings to stake holders. Teachers attending the workshop should bring a map of the area of their school and a copy of their state history/social studies and science standards.

### Brooklyn College City-as-Lab: Building a community of practice of place-based environmental/science education for urban high school students

The Brooklyn College City-as-Lab project is an NSF-funded GK 12 project that partners STEM graduate students with teachers in small thematic urban schools to develop and enact place-based science education. In this presentation we will describe the overall project and discuss the challenges and opportunities of engaging the different stakeholders in place-based studies. Evaluation findings from this project support the notion that engaging urban students in community-based learning experiences is important to motivating and sustaining their interest in science.

## General Information

# December 1-3, 2010

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### Location:

#### Wednesday Evening and Thursday

New Bedford Whaling Museum  
18 Johnny Cake Hill  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
Tel. (508) 997-0046

#### Friday

Ocean Explorium at New Bedford Seaport  
174 Union Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
Tel. (508) 994-5400

### Parking:

Elm Street Garage | Parking fee: \$10/day

### Directions:

**Directions to Elm Street Parking Garage:** From I-195 take Exit 15 (Route 18 South - Downtown). Take RIGHT at the first traffic light. Garage is approx. 500 feet on your RIGHT.

### Lodging:

Fairfield Inn and Suites by Marriott

### Room Block:

**Code:** SYM (Reservations must be made by 5 p.m. on November 2, 2010)

**If booking online:** use code SYMSYMA-Standard Double Room

SYMSYMB Standard King Room      SYMSYME Standard Harbor View  
SYMSYMC Standard Suite              SYMSYMF Harborview Suite

Fairfield Inn and Suites by Marriott  
85 MacArthur Drive, New Bedford, MA 02740  
Tel: 774-634-2000 | Fax: 774-634-2001 | www.marriott.com/ewbfi

### Airport Recommendation:

**TF Green Airport**, Warwick, Rhode Island (Closest airport to museum and hotel- approximately 40min. travel time.)

### Rental Recommendation:

#### Enterprise Rent-A-Car

**Providence Airport**  
Enterprise Rent-A-Car  
70 Dewey Avenue  
Warwick, RI 02886  
Tel.: (401) 732-5261

#### Dartmouth Location

Enterprise Rent-A-Car  
323 State Road  
Dartmouth, MA 02747  
Tel.: (508) 999-9400

**Contact**  
Sara Meirowitz  
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smeirowitz@whalingmuseum.org



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Place  
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