

# AN OVERVIEW OF CURRENT PROGRAMS:

## ***Bilingual Outreach Programs and Materials:***

MERITO collaborates with schools and community-centered education groups to build upon and foster community ownership and stewardship of our marine and coastal resources among culturally diverse audiences. Through partnerships with schools districts, adult school organizations, middle schools, migrant parent groups, local cities, and non-profit groups, MERITO provides bilingual outreach programs and materials. These include youth afterschool programs, educational presentations for adults, community field experiences, event support and curriculum and outreach materials.

## ***Bilingual Programs on Partner Sites:***

MERITO collaborates with other natural resource management agencies such as California State Parks and the National Estuarine Research Reserves to provide outreach for culturally diverse youth, adults, and migrant families. By attending and supporting community events and providing bilingual outreach resources, MERITO hopes to increase visitation and stewardship by Hispanic community members at

partner and natural resource management sites. Encouraging visitation to partner sites that provide information on the MBNMS will help engage our community in appreciation of coastal resources while increasing awareness of the MBNMS.

## ***Teacher Professional Development and Internship Programs:***

MERITO collaborates with minority-serving institutions to develop and provide professional development opportunities for Hispanic-serving teachers as well as paid internships and job training opportunities for Hispanic undergraduate and graduate level students.

In addition to the development of an activity guide and provision of field experience support to public school and private youth programs, MERITO hosts a Watershed/Ocean teacher and youth leader training each year. The workshop provides participants with guidance in developing program calendars, facilitates communication with field experts, and trains and supports teachers and youth leaders in the integration of MERITO curriculum into their own extended learning programs.

## ***Expansion to Other Sanctuaries:***

The MBNMS MERITO program has been identified as a model for multicultural education in sanctuaries nationwide. MERITO program expansion will continue to build new capacity in NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program for broadening the geographic scope of this multicultural education programming and will strengthen program cohesion.

With expansion to the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, MERITO developed a process and model for expanding the program to other sanctuary sites throughout the nation, such as Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank in California, Flower Garden Banks in Texas and Florida Keys off the southeast United States. The fact that all four California sanctuaries are ecologically linked through the California current and countercurrent allows us to focus on some of the same issues, such as water quality and runoff issues affecting near shore systems.

***MERITO's outreach programs are made possible through collaborations and partnerships with non-profit organizations, government agencies, schools, academic institutions, and our local and national marine sanctuary foundations.***



**Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary**  
Santuario Marino Nacional de la Bahía de Monterrey