



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## AGREEMENT COVER SHEET

**Cover Sheet is an Internal Document for Business Office Use**

### Please Type

Contractor full name: New England Science & Sailing (NESS)

Doing Business As, if applicable:

Business Address: 72 Water Street, PO Box 733, Stonington, CT 06378

Business Phone: 860-535-9362

Business email: MStrand@nessf.org

Funding Source & Acct # including location code: ARP ESSER III Carryover Program 2553-6399-56694-0008

Principal or Supervisor: Luis Menacho

Agreement Effective Dates: From 11/28/23. To 06/30/24.

Hourly rate or per session rate or per day rate. Varies

Total amount: \$25,106.00

-Classroom Experiences: Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, 7th, & 8th Grades = \$5,750.00

-New Haven Field Trips: 3rd, 4th, & 5th Grades = \$12,420.00

-NESS Stonington Field Trips: 6th Grade = \$6,990.00

Description of Service: Please provide a one or two sentence description of the service. *Please do not write "see attached."*

NESS will provide hands-on, experiential learning opportunities for students aligned to quarterly magnet themes and Next Generation Science Standards to strengthen the implementation of science instruction building wide.

Submitted by: Luis Menacho Phone: 475-220-2000



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## Memorandum

**To:** New Haven Board of Education Finance and Operations Committee  
**From:** John S. Martinez Sea & Sky STEM Magnet School (Luis Menacho)  
**Date:** 10/24/23  
**Re:** New England Science & Sailing (NESS)

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Please **answer all questions and attach any required documentation as indicated below**. Please have someone **ready to discuss** the details of each question during the Finance & Operations meeting or this proposal might not be advanced for consideration by the full Board of Education.

1. **Contractor Name: New England Science & Sailing (NESS)**
2. **Description of Service:** NESS will provide hands-on, inquiry based, experiential learning to students in Grade K-8 on STEM projects pertaining to topics such as buoyancy, pressure with depth, density and hydrodynamic shapes and sizes. Additionally, students will visit NESS on field trips to kayak, and sail, and NESS will facilitate field trips to nearby New Haven parks for students to get a better idea of their local environment.. All of these services correlate to our magnet theme of sea and sky as well as Next Generation Science Standards.
3. **Amount of Agreement and hourly or session cost:** \$25,106.00  
-Classroom Experiences: Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, 7th, & 8th Grades = \$5,750.00  
-New Haven Field Trips: 3rd, 4th, & 5th Grades =\$12,420.00  
-NESS Stonington Field Trips: 6th Grade = \$6,990.00
4. **Funding Source and account number: ARP ESSER III Carryover 2553-6399-56694-0008**
5. Approximate number of staff served through this program or service: **24**
6. Approximate number of students served through this program or service: **484**
7. **Continuation/renewal or new Agreement? New Agreement**  
**Answer all questions:**
  - a. If continuation/renewal, has the cost increased? If yes, by how much?
  - b. What would an alternative contractor cost:
  - c. If this is a continuation, when was the last time alternative quotes were requested?
  - d. For new or continuation: is this a service existing staff could provide. If no, why not?  
**This is not a service existing staff could provide as we do not have the licensing, credentials, expertise, or equipment necessary to provide said services for our students.**

8. **Type of Service:**

**Answer all questions:**

- a. Professional Development? **No**
  - i. If this is a professional development program, can the service be provided by existing staff? If no, why not?
- b. After School or Extended Hours Program? **No**
- c. School Readiness or Head Start Programs? **No**
- d. Other: (Please describe)

9. **Contractor Classification:**

**Answer all questions:**

- a. Is the Contractor a Minority or Women Owned Business? **No**
- b. Is the Contractor Local? **Yes, Stonington, CT**
- c. Is the Contractor a Not-for-Profit Organization? If yes, is it local or national? **Yes, local**
- d. Is the Contractor a public corporation? **No**
- e. Is this a renewal/continuation Agreement or a new service? **New service**
- f. If it is a renewal/continuation has cost increased? If yes, by how much?
- g. Will the output of this Agreement contribute to building internal capabilities? If yes, please explain: **Yes, this agreement will build internal capabilities within staff by providing content and skill knowledge in the areas of ocean-based experiential learning. NESS offers a unique education model that empowers students with leadership, teamwork, confidence, and problem-solving skills to ensure academic success. Their STEM-based curriculum includes using marine science, sailing, power boating, and adventure sports as learning platforms, on and off the water, for students from all walks of life. Through modeling and scaffolding of content/skills, staff capacity to provide said content/skills will increase.**

10. **Contractor Selection: In this section, please describe the selection process, including other sources considered and the rationale for selecting the contractor. Please answer all questions:**

- a. What specific skill set does this contractor bring to the project? Please attach a copy of the contractor's resume if an individual or link to contractor website if a company: <https://nessf.org>
- b. How was the Contractor selected? Quotes, RFP/RFQ, Sealed Bid or Sole Source designation from the City of New Haven Purchasing Department? **This contractor was selected as they are the only provider of ocean-based, experiential learning in CT.**
- c. Is the contractor the lowest bidder? If no, why? Why was this contractor selected? **This contractor was selected as they are the only provider of ocean-based, experiential learning in CT.**
- d. Who were the members of the selection committee that scored bid applications?
- e. If the contractor is Sole Source, please attach a copy of the Sole Source designation letter from the City of New Haven Purchasing Department.

11. Evidence of Effectiveness & Evaluation

Answer all questions

- a. What **specific need** will this contractor address and how will the contractor's performance be measured and monitored to ensure that the need is met? **This contractor is providing STEM based content/skill instruction to our 484 students in the area of Next Generation Science Standards. We will measure their performance through SBAC data in the area of Science and informally through student and teacher involvement in the services provided.**
- b. If this is a **renewal/continuation service** attach a copy of the evaluation or archival data that demonstrates effectiveness.
- c. How is this service aligned to the District Continuous Improvement Plan? **Yes**

12. Why do you believe this Agreement is fiscally sound? **Yes**

13. What are the implications of not approving this Agreement? **The implications of not approving this agreement are our students will miss out on STEM based, experiential learning in the area of ocean-based adventures. We believe these services and opportunities play an integral role in the development of our magnet themes and science curriculum. We believe NESS educational programs impact academic achievement. Various studies have found mindsets and social-emotional learning (SEL) skills matter as much, or more, than socioeconomic background for underperformance because those factors positively impact student achievement. Without these services, we believe there will be a negative impact on said student achievement.**

Rev: 8/2021



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**AGREEMENT**  
**By And Between**  
**The New Haven Board of Education**  
**AND**

*(New England Science & Sailing)*

FOR DEPARTMENT/PROGRAM:

**John Martinez School**

This Agreement entered into on the 21st day of November 2023, effective (*no sooner than the day after Board of Education Approval*), the 12th day of December, 2023, by and between the New Haven Board of Education (herein referred to as the “Board” and, New England Science & Sailing located at 72 Water Street, PO Box 733, Stonington, CT 06378 (herein referred to as the “Contractor”).)

**Compensation:** The Board shall pay the contractor for satisfactory performance of services required in the amount of \$25,106.00 per session (see scope of service for breakdown of costs associated per session), for a total of nine sessions (K-8).

**Amount** of Agreement and hourly or session cost: \$25,106.00

- Classroom Experiences: Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, 7th, & 8th Grades = \$5,750.00
- New Haven Field Trips: 3rd, 4th, & 5th Grades = \$12,420.00
- NESS Stonington Field Trips: 6th Grade = \$6,990.00

The maximum amount the contractor shall be paid under this agreement: Twenty-five thousand, one hundred six dollars (\$25,106.00). Compensation will be made upon submission of an itemized invoice which includes a detailed description of work performed and date of service.

**Fiscal support** for this Agreement shall be by ARP ESSER III C/O **Program** of the New Haven Board of Education, **Account Number:** 2553-6399-56694 **Location Code:**0008

This agreement shall remain in effect from 11/21/23 to 6/30/24.

**SCOPE OF SERVICE:** *Please provide brief summary of service to be provided.*

NESS instructors will visit John S. Martinez to work with students on programming that will deepen the learning of content related to magnet/science units and is directly aligned with grade level NGSS. In addition, students will visit NESS on field trips that extend learning

**Exhibit A: Scope of Service:** Please attach contractor's detailed Scope of Service on contractor letterhead with all costs for services including travel and supplies, if applicable.

**Exhibit B: Student Data and Privacy Agreement:** Attached

**APPROVAL:** This Agreement must be approved by the New Haven Board of Education *prior to service start date*. Contactors may begin service no sooner than the day after Board of Education approval.

**HOLD HARMLESS:** The Contractor shall insure and/or indemnify the Board and its members, employees and agents against all claims, suits, and expenses, including reasonable attorney's fees, in connection with loss of life, bodily injury or property damage arising from any neglect act or omission of the Contractor or its employees or agents. Further, the Contractor covenants and agrees that it shall hold the Board and its members, employees and agents harmless against any and all claims, suits judgments of any description whatsoever caused by the Contractor' breach of this agreement or based upon the conduct of the Contractor, or its agents or its employees or arising out of in connection with their activities under this agreement.

**TERMINATION:** The Board may cancel this agreement for any reason upon thirty (30) days' written notice sent to the Contractor by certified U.S. mail, return receipt requested; provided however, that the Board shall be responsible to the Contractor for all services rendered by the Contractor through the last day of thirty (30) day notice period, as long as the Agreement was approved by the Board prior to the start date of service.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Contractor Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
President  
New Haven Board of Education

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Contractor Printed Name & Title

Revised: 8/2021



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## EXHIBIT B

### STUDENT DATA PRIVACY AGREEMENT SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

For the purposes of this Exhibit B "directory information," "de-identified student information," "school purposes," "student information," "student records," "student generated content," and "targeted advertising" shall be as defined by Conn. Gen. Stat. §10-234aa.

1. All student records, student information, and student-generated content (collectively, "student data") provided or accessed pursuant this Agreement or any other services agreement between the Parties are not the property of, or under the control of, the Contractor.
2. The Board shall have access to and the ability to delete student data in the possession of the Contractor except in instances where such data is (A) otherwise prohibited from deletion or required to be retained under state or federal law, or (B) stored as a copy as part of a disaster recovery storage system and that is (i) inaccessible to the public, and (ii) unable to be used in the normal course of business by the Contractor. The Board may request the deletion of any such student information, student records or student generated content if such copy has been used by the operator to repopulate accessible data following a disaster recovery. The Board may request the deletion of student data by the contractor within two (2) business days of receiving such a request and provide to the Board confirmation via electronic mail that the student data has been deleted in accordance with the request, the date of its deletion, and the manner in which it has been deleted. The confirmation shall contain a written assurance from the Contractor that proper disposal of the data has occurred in order to prevent the unauthorized access or use of student data and that deletion has occurred in accordance with industry standards/practices/protocols.
3. The Contractor shall not use student data for any purposes other than those authorized pursuant to this Agreement.
4. A student, parent or legal guardian of a student may review personally identifiable information contained in student data and correct any erroneous information, if any, in such student data. If the Contractor receives a request to review student data in the Contractor's possession directly from a student, parent, or guardian, the Contractor agrees to refer that individual to the Board and to notify the Board within two (2) business days of receiving such a request. The Contractor agrees to work cooperatively with the Board to permit a student, parent, or guardian to review personally identifiable information in student data that has been shared with the Contractor, and correct any erroneous information therein.



5. The Contractor shall take actions designed to ensure the security and confidentiality of student data.
6. The Contractor will notify the Board, in accordance with Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-234dd, when there has been an unauthorized release, disclosure or acquisition of student data. Such notification will include the following steps:

Upon discovery by the Contractor of a breach of student data, the Contractor shall conduct an investigation and restore the integrity of its data systems and, without unreasonable delay, but not more than thirty (30) days after such discovery, shall provide the Board with a more detailed notice of the breach, including but not limited to the date and time of the breach; name(s) of the student(s) whose student data was released, disclosed or acquired; nature of and extent of the breach; and measures taken to ensure that such a breach does not occur in the future.

7. Student data shall not be retained or available to the Contractor upon expiration of the contract between the Contractor and Board, except a student, parent or legal guardian of a student may choose independently to establish or maintain an electronic account with the Contractor after the expiration of such contract for the purpose of storing student generated content.
8. The Contractor and Board shall each ensure their own compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, 20 U.S.C. § 1232g, as amended from time to time.
9. The Contractor acknowledges and agrees to comply with the above and all other applicable aspects of Connecticut's Student Data Privacy law according to Connecticut General Statutes §§ 10-234aa through 10-234dd.
10. The Parties agree that this Agreement controls over any inconsistent terms or conditions contained within any other agreement entered into by the Parties concerning student data.



### **J.S. Martinez School Program Scope of Service**

NESS's J.S. Martinez School Program proposal is to support a NESS-J.S. Martinez Community Partnership Program. This proposal aims to provide academic day STEM programs that are student-centered, innovative, real-world experiences to all students at J.S. Martinez.

The proposed program is designed to build year after year as students' progress by grade through J.S. Martinez. Students will engineer, design, and work together to problem solve and gain content knowledge through field expeditions at NESS's Stonington location and other locations around New Haven and in the classroom. NESS educators guide students to use scientific equipment and explore the process of scientific reasoning through inquiry. With the building block approach, student personal growth includes unique content and process skills and develops each student at an inclusive pace for all types of learners.

The J.S. Martinez School Program proposal also provides grade-level appropriate opportunities for students to enhance their curriculum. NESS uses exciting outdoor adventures, including marine science, sailing, and kayaking, as platforms for real-world application and hands-on experiences. NESS engages students in experiential learning to develop and increase non-cognitive skills, including confidence, teamwork, leadership, and stewardship of our natural environment. NESS programs align with the Next Generation Science Standards, the Ocean Literacy Principles, and CASEL social-emotional competencies to provide a curriculum that promotes local and global connections to STEM content.

Students in grades three and up will complete pre-and-post surveys to measure the program's impact. Surveys will have 23 items related to the five non-cognitive skills identified. Students will self-report their feelings before their first classroom program and after their final field experience for the academic year.

#### **Program Cost:**

<b>Spring 2024 J.S. Martinez – NESS Program Cost</b>	
Classroom Experiences (Kindergarten, 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup> , & 8 <sup>th</sup> Grades)	\$5,750
New Haven Field Trips (3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> , & 5 <sup>th</sup> Grades)	\$12,420
NESS Stonington Field Trips (6 <sup>th</sup> Grade)	\$6,990
Total Program Cost	\$25,106*

\* As in previous years this is the total, however we will work with you to meet your budget for these programs.

**Description of plans designed to achieve goals & objectives:**

Below are listed the types of programs that NESS would offer. NESS can adjust programming content to fit the teacher's needs and meet NGSS standards currently being taught in the classroom.

K Grade NESS Programs

<b>PROGRAM</b>	<b>JSM SCOPE &amp; SEQUENCE</b>	<b>CONTENT</b>	<b>NGSS ALIGNMENT</b>
<b>Classroom</b>	<b>Space</b>	<b>Marble Crash Course:</b> Get ready to lose your marbles! Discover what happens when two objects collide at increasing speeds. Engineer ramps that will speed up or slow down a marble as it collides with other objects or other marbles. Experiment with different size marbles and ramp lengths, try to stop the marble or change its direction, and try and knock down larger objects.	<b>K-PS2-1:</b> Plan and conduct an investigation to compare the effects of different strengths or different directions of pushes and pulls on the motion of an object. <b>K-PS2-2:</b> Analyze data to determine if a design solution works as intended to change the speed or direction of an object with a push or a pull. *

1<sup>st</sup> Grade NESS Programs

<b>PROGRAM</b>	<b>JSM SCOPE &amp; SEQUENCE</b>	<b>CONTENT</b>	<b>NGSS ALIGNMENT</b>
<b>Classroom</b>	<b>Hydrosphere/ Human Impact</b>	<b>Biomimicry:</b> What does the shape of a fish have in common with a sports car, the honeycombs of a bee with a chair, and a butterfly with clothing? The answer is these living organisms are influencing the way people are designing new and more efficient technologies. Make your own investigations by looking at a variety of natural objects, using magnifying glasses, and designing your own new product.	<b>1-LS1-1:</b> Use materials to design a solution to a human problem by mimicking how plants and/or animals use their external parts to help them survive, grow, and meet their needs. * <b>K-2-ETS1-1:</b> Ask questions, make observations, and gather information about a situation people want to change to define a simple problem that can be solved through the development of a new or improved object or tool.

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade NESS Programs

PROGRAM	JSM SCOPE & SEQUENCE	CONTENT	NGSS ALIGNMENT
Classroom	Space	<p><b>Launch Zone:</b> Get ready for some high-flying engineering! Learn about the laws of physics while working in teams to build a catapult, egg bungee, or car ramp in order to see how far you can stretch your engineering skills while experimenting with balanced and unbalanced forces.</p>	<p><b>2-PS1-2:</b> Analyze data obtained from testing different materials to determine which materials have the properties that are best suited for an intended purpose. *</p> <p><b>2-PS1-3:</b> Make observations to construct an evidence-based account of how an object made of a small set of pieces can be disassembled and made into a new object</p>

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade NESS Programs

PROGRAM	JSM SCOPE & SEQUENCE	CONTENT	NGSS ALIGNMENT
Travel Field Expedition	<p><b>Human Impact on the Sea and Sky</b></p>	<p><b>Watersheds and Marine Debris – Lighthouse Park Field Trip:</b> What happens when plastics enter the ocean? Find out by exploring the densities of different plastics. Learn about ocean gyres and hypothesize where all the trash in our ocean ends up. Create your own watershed and ocean and see for yourself where it goes! Finally participate in a clean-up of a park in your own backyard.</p> <p><i>Activities: Watershed Model Lesson, Marine Debris, and Marine Debris Clean-Up</i></p>	<p><b>3-LS4-4:</b> Make a claim about the merit of a solution to a problem caused when the environment changes and the types of plants and animals that live there may change. *</p>

4<sup>th</sup> Grade NESS Programs

PROGRAM	JSM SCOPE & SEQUENCE	CONTENT	NGSS ALIGNMENT
<p><b>Travel Field Expedition</b></p>	<p><b>Human Impact on the Sea and Sky</b></p>	<p><b>Wind Energy and Turbines – Lighthouse Park Field Trip:</b>                      Investigate how to generate power from wind! Just as sailors use wind to power their sailboats, you can use the wind to power other things. Explore the physics of wind and how an airplane wing, a dragon fly wing and a sail can generate lift and drag. Use iPads to experiment in a virtual wind tunnel with various airfoils to determine their efficiency. Design and build your own windmill blades and see how well they work.</p> <p><i>Activities: Wind Turbine, Ecosystem Study</i></p>	<p><b>4-PS3-1:</b> Use evidence to construct an explanation relating the speed of an object to the energy of that object.</p> <p><b>3-5-ETS1-2:</b> Generate and compare multiple possible solutions to a problem based on how well each is likely to meet the criteria and constraints of the problem.</p> <p><b>3-5-ETS1-3:</b> Plan and carry out fair tests in which variables are controlled and failure points are considered to identify aspects of a model or prototype that can be improved.</p>

5<sup>th</sup> Grade NESS Programs

PROGRAM	JSM SCOPE & SEQUENCE	CONTENT	NGSS ALIGNMENT
<p><b>Travel Field Expedition</b></p>	<p><b>Hydrosphere</b></p>	<p><b>Watershed Science - Edgewood Park:</b> Explore the local vibrant marine ecosystem of watersheds and collect real-world data. Collect information at three different watershed sites in New Haven. Compare and record biodiversity, invasive versus native species. Collect water quality data at each site and determine solutions for a sustainable and healthy future.</p> <p><i>Activities: Water Quality, Seining, Debris Clean-Up</i></p>	<p><b>5-ESS2-1:</b> Develop a model using an example to describe ways the geosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere, and/or atmosphere interact.</p> <p><b>5-ESS3-1:</b> Obtain and combine information about ways individual communities use science ideas to protect the Earth’s resources and environment.</p> <p><b>5-LS1-1:</b> Support an argument that plants get the materials they need for growth chiefly from air and water.</p>

6<sup>th</sup> Grade NESS Programs

PROGRAM	JSM SCOPE & SEQUENCE	CONTENT	NGSS ALIGNMENT
<p><b>NESS Stonington Field Trip</b></p>	<p><b>Human Impact on the Sea and Sky</b></p>	<p><b>Our Watershed Kayak Excursion</b> - Do you know where your drinking water comes from? Do you know where the water goes after it travels down the drain? Each day people use water and change the natural systems to keep it fresh and clean. Learn and practice kayaking skills to safely travel Stonington Harbor and explore this unique watershed.</p> <p><b>Sonar Sailing SySTEMs</b> - Climb aboard a Sonar keelboat and identify the simple machines and technology of a sailboat. Work as a team to steer the boat, trim the sails and navigate the waters of Stonington Harbor with a knowledgeable and safe sailing captain.</p> <p><b>Intro to Sail</b> - Are you ready to try sailing! Using our Opti Trainers, instructors will teach you step by step how to steer a boat, to name the parts of a boat and its functions, to use your sail to power your boat, and even land a boat back on the dock. Head out on the water with a buddy and start your sailing adventures now!</p>	<p><b>MS-PS2-2:</b> Plan an investigation to provide evidence that the change in an object’s motion depends on the sum of the forces on the object and the mass of the object.</p> <p><b>MS-PS2-2:</b> Plan an investigation to provide evidence that the change in an object’s motion depends on the sum of the forces on the object and the mass of the object.</p>

7<sup>th</sup> Grade NESS Programs

<b>PROGRAM</b>	<b>JSM SCOPE &amp; SEQUENCE</b>	<b>CONTENT</b>	<b>NGSS ALIGNMENT</b>
<b>Classroom</b>	<b>Hydrosphere</b>	<b>Hydropower:</b> Learn about new and old ways to harness the power of moving water. Design build and test a water wheel and compete against other groups to try to generate the most electricity!	<p><b>MS-ESS3-3:</b> Apply scientific principles to design a method for monitoring and minimizing a human impact on the environment. *</p> <p><b>MS-ETS1-1:</b> Define the criteria and constraints of a design problem with sufficient precision to ensure a successful solution, taking into account relevant scientific principles.</p> <p><b>MS-ETS1-3:</b> Analyze data from tests to determine similarities and differences among several design solutions to identify the best characteristics of each that can be combined into a new solution to better meet the criteria for success.</p>

8<sup>th</sup> Grade NESS Programs

<b>PROGRAM</b>	<b>JSM SCOPE &amp; SEQUENCE</b>	<b>CONTENT</b>	<b>NGSS ALIGNMENT</b>
<b>Classroom</b>	<b>Hydrosphere</b>	<b>ROV's:</b> Students draft, design, engineer, and compete against fellow classmates as they attempt to build their own Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV). This program focuses on buoyancy, pressure with depth, density, and hydrodynamic shapes and sizes, and teaches students to work quickly and efficiently as a team. Students will have an opportunity to challenge each other through in-water simulations and a course to test their ability to maneuver their vehicle.	<p><b>MS-ESS3-3:</b> Apply scientific principles to design a method for monitoring and minimizing a human impact on the environment. *</p> <p><b>MS-ETS1-3:</b> Analyze data from tests to determine similarities and differences among several design solutions to identify the best characteristics of each that can be combined into a new solution to better meet the criteria for success.</p>



November 21, 2023

Dear Board of Education,

The purpose of this letter is to inform whomever it may concern that New England Science & Sailing (NESS) is the sole provider for the experiences that we propose. The following areas set NESS apart from other organizations: accreditation, expertise, inclusive learning model, and assessment.

In 2018, NESS earned accreditation from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), making it the only School Partner Program in Connecticut to hold this accreditation. According to the NEASC team, NESS is *"distinguished by its meticulous and thorough organization. This includes detailed safety manuals, communication trees, and board policies and procedures. These qualities are indicative of an appropriately thoughtful administrative approach that is personal, engaged, and truly representative of the NESS mission."*

At NESS, a dynamic team of educators with expertise, skills, and certification in learning platforms and their respective fields deliver the unique learning model. All NESS educators must have prior experience working with K-12 students and hold degrees in their respective fields. The CEO of NESS, Dr. Eric Iselhardt, has spent his career in education leadership, including serving as CEO of the National Teachers of the Year and CEO of Calvert Education.

NESS engages K-12 students through a unique experiential learning pedagogy that takes place in classrooms, labs, and on the water. More than two-thirds of NESS's work takes place in schools, using experiential lesson plans designed for the classroom. NESS educators subsequently deepen learning and skills when students visit NESS or satellite sites for on-the-water learning programs. The underlying pedagogy links to Next Generation Science Standards, Ocean Literacy principles, and CASEL social-emotional learning standards.

Formal assessment is critical to NESS's work as it allows the organization to refine its model and approach. In 2019, Goodman Research conducted a comprehensive study of NESS, which concluded that NESS students are eight times more likely to show gains in confidence, five times more likely to show gains in perseverance, and four times more likely to show gains in teamwork. NESS recently retained the Australian Association of Educational Research (ACER) to affirm Goodman's findings and determine the long-term impact of the organization's work.

Importantly, NESS is dedicated to increasing student and school opportunities through access to its unique and powerful learning model. The organization is highly focused on serving communities and it is guided by data. Our commitment to inclusivity cuts across all demographics.

Sincerely,

*Pamela C. Gibbs*

Pamela C. Gibbs  
Director, Outreach and Engagement



**To empower students with a love of learning through ocean-based experiential programs that serve schools, teachers, and families.**

PO Box 733 • Stonington, CT 06378 • 860.535.9362 • [www.nessf.org](http://www.nessf.org)





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