



A Voyage of Discovery for California Educators

Join us as we splice two strong programs into one robust line of engaging experiential experiences. Our goal is to plot a course that will link LAMI's character-building program, TopSail Youth Program, to LAMI's marine science program, TopSail STEM. At this training we will explore the many connections between LAMI's shipboard education and adventure program, California's unique state sponsored environment education program, the Environmental Education Initiative, and Principles of Ocean Literacy. Using the Port of Los Angeles for our theme, we will explore the cultural, physical, and ecological aspects of this distinctive bioregion. Participants will work in teams to construct explanations, argue from evidence, and celebrate how LAMI is positioned to support formal classroom teachers as they learn the methods of non-formal educators.

We find ourselves in a moment of great opportunity, for educators, for the education system, and for ALL of our students. Realizing this opportunity requires building pathways between formal and non-formal education organizations, aligning the language of our intentions, and recognizing that experience is the teacher, not us; we are guides, navigators, and co-authors of learning. Writing in *Tuning the Rig*, Harvey Oxenhorn captured the challenge most classroom educators face as they transition to Common Core and the Next Generation Science Standards:

"Looking back it was clear that the mates did not expect us to be competent. What we were meant to learn in those first few days—what mattered most—was not a particular set of skills, but a new way of thinking. Being mindful. We were being trained to notice everything, to make that level of awareness so habitual it became unconscious, to pay attention in the same way one pays out line."

Teachers are being asked to stop lecturing and making sense of the world for students and instead, to help children and teens do this for themselves through rich experiences like sailing, experimenting, or reading novel texts. What students gain in the process is self reliance, persistence, an appreciation of teamwork, and an inclination to question the status quo with respectful questioning. Those are the very traits that emerge in young people when faced with the challenges of hoisting heavy sails, assuming responsibility for a classmate's safety, or when sail handling requires communicating with precision and clarity. Experiencing these demands produces habits of mind that endure and are applicable to most life circumstances. Fortunately for teachers, sailors already know these skills, and LAMI supports teachers!

Join us for an upcoming Teacher Workshop aboard LAMI's tall ships to see how we can splice the formal and non-formal world of education into one engaging voyage of discovery.

Contact Los Angeles Maritime Institute (LAMI) at 310-833-6055 or email info@lamitopsail.org