

PBS NEWSHOUR

STEM learning for adults, teens, and at-risk populations

Student Reporting Labs *Underrepresented Teens*

Working with a professional public media journalist mentor, students go into their community and investigate critical issues. With funding from the NSF, we have been able to focus 16 of our 70 Labs on coverage of STEM issues. They also collaborate with other students in different states on their topics, soliciting and providing feedback as they proceed with their reporting. The young people who create these videos participate in innovative forms of inquiry that can engage students otherwise turned off by traditional academics.



By engaging students and encouraging them to research, edit and produce their own work, these outreach tools advance discovery and understanding, while promoting teaching, training and learning. The young people who interact with the NewsHour digital learning projects are taking part in innovative forms of inquiry and learning in a collaborative environment that can engage students otherwise turned off by traditional academics.

SRL At-a-glance:

- Active in 16 schools in underserved neighborhoods.
- Working with 13 public stations, the project produced 14 science tape reports.
- Topics included sustaining zoo populations, launching eggs with lighter fluid, examining the impact of climate change, maintaining a food nutrition program, detailing factors affecting teens' bones and looking at eco-friendly efforts in Wisconsin.

Highlight: Rapid Response



Student Reporting Labs also started a new Rapid Response project, asking students to find and report on specific topics within a certain time period. Tied to the Frontline documentary "League of Denial," the SRL team asked students to find concussion-related stories in their communities. The students did real investigative reporting – interviewing players who hid their concussions, families who were dealing with tough choices about whether to play or not and athletes who purposefully flubbed the baseline tests so they could get back in the game.

PBS NEWSHOUR General Audience; on air and online

Highlight: Fukushima Series



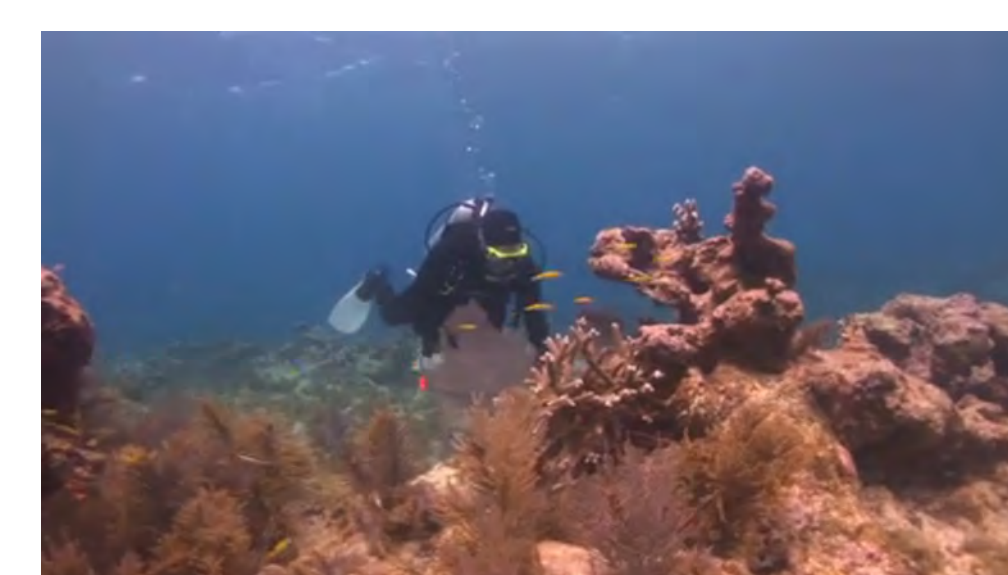
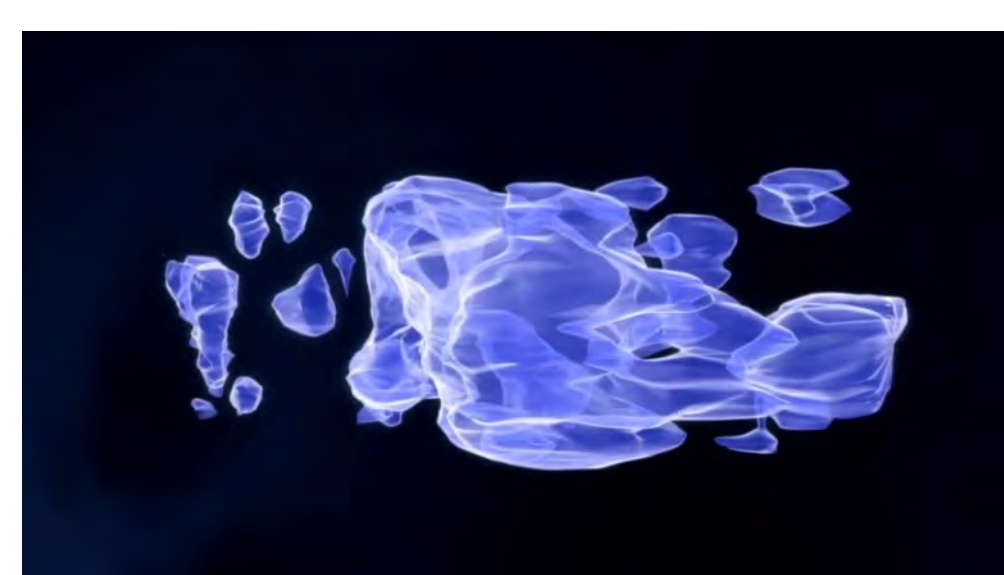
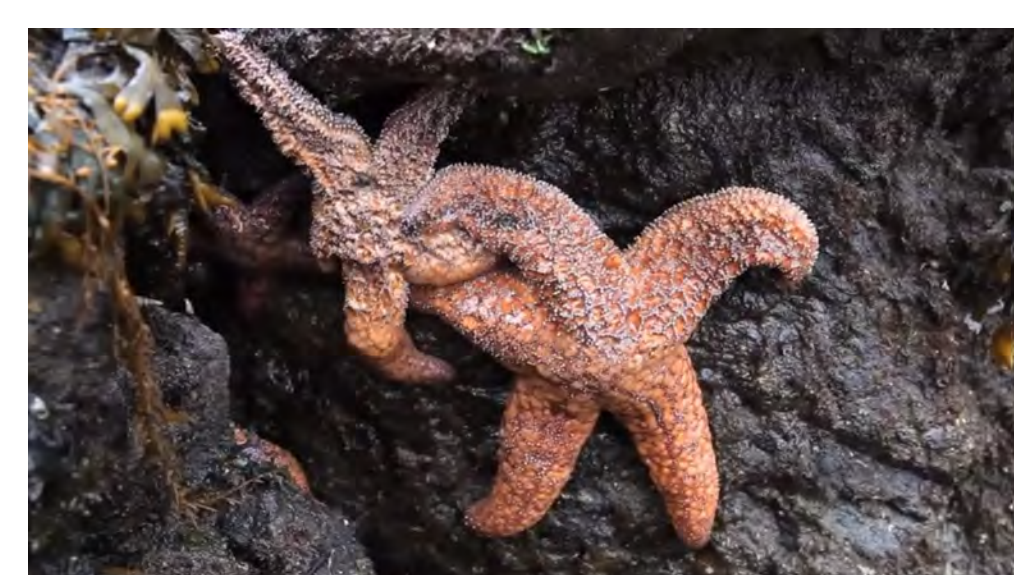
The highlight of the year was a 3-part series we produced in Fukushima, 3 years after the earthquake/tsunami/nuclear meltdown. Our lead correspondent Miles O'Brien produced an update about the situation inside the plant that suffered the meltdown, a report on the impact on the fishing industry and an analysis of the future of nuclear power in Japan.

The PBS NewsHour presented a highly visible science and engineering reporting initiative, featuring lead science correspondent Miles O'Brien and a multi-platform approach to STEM Learning for Adults and Teens. Miles, who has reported on science for over two decades, and the experienced PBS NewsHour team create content that is adaptable for broadcast, online, social media, mobile apps, and after-school and auxiliary classroom projects, and that will engage both adults and teenagers.

In the past year, the NewsHour science unit presented the general audience with a wealth of information about science in 30 broadcast tape reports. Online, we featured 362 pieces, including 56 multimedia or long-form Science Wednesdays, 101 other significant online reports, 8 audience engagement sessions including Twitter Chats, and 197 short science takes that were part of our new Rundown blog, which covers the news of the day and provides opportunities for updates and breaking news.

On air and online, we covered:

- Biology (with looks at starfish, cicadas, snakes, naked mole rats).
- Neuroscience (tinnitus, brain games).
- Engineering (protecting against storm surges, bridge construction).
- Climate science (ocean acidification, fires, warming waters).
- Astrophysics (search for dark matter, black holes).



Results:

- All of our science content combined earned over 3 million page and video views.
- 929,911 views of Science Wednesdays.

the.News *Underrepresented Teens*

The.News worked at 3 locations this past year – New York Hall of Science; the Center of Science and Industry in Columbus Ohio (COSI); and an after-school program in St. Mary's County, MD.

the.News

The project at NY Hall of Science took place as part of the museum's innovation camp during spring break week for 24 middle school students. The students spent 5 hours a day exploring science-related topics and video production. The program focused on the.News videos: Chicago Fights Extreme Urban Heat With Green Ideas; Newspapers In The Digital Age; Endangered Coral Reefs Die In Acidic Water; Edible Bugs; the White House Campaign On Obesity; and Trans Fat, A Hidden Killer. At the end of the week, the students premiered their mash up videos for their families at a concluding event.



Highlight: Center of Science and Industry



The project's activities at COSI will get underway in July. In two summer camp sessions, middle school and high school students will use the.News science videos as a springboard for student-generated videos, merging science-related content with hands-on learning about video production and journalism. After the first recruitment effort, thirteen students were signed up for the COSI activities. As in previous years, campers will work with staff that help them think critically about what they see, while experts from the local public television station teach the students how to edit video clips, write and carry out interviews.