

In June 2004 the six research institutions of Woods Hole, MA: The Marine Biological Laboratory, the NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service/Northeast Fisheries Science Center/Woods Hole Laboratory, Sea Education Association, US Geological Survey-Woods Hole, the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, and the Woods Hole Research Center signed a Memorandum of Understanding regarding diversity in Woods Hole. This consequently began the Woods Hole Diversity Initiative. This is an initiative committed to creating pathways of opportunity that will attract people from underrepresented groups to live, work and study in Woods Hole. The Diversity Initiative has now been underway for the past four years in the belief that diversity is an asset we need to nurture in our community. For the past two years Woods Hole's diversity has been spotlighted through Diversity Day, a community-wide educational and celebratory event held on a summer afternoon in the Village of Woods Hole.

This year the events have been expanded to last a week. During the week of June 22-June 27, 2008 Woods Hole will celebrate the fourth anniversary of signing the Memorandum of Understanding and celebrate the third annual Diversity Day. The week will contain many events including speakers, exhibits, films, panel discussions and presentations hosted by the six institutions and all focused on acknowledging and raising awareness about diversity in Woods Hole.

A celebratory Diversity Fest will be held as a culminating event on Thursday, 6/26/08 from 4:00 – 6:00 pm under a tent on the grounds of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution's Challenger House off Woods Hole Road and School Street in the Village of Woods Hole. There will be a keynote address by Dr. Isiah Warner, the Vice Chancellor from the Office of Strategic Initiatives at Louisiana State University. Dr. Warner will discuss strategies he implemented to maintain diversity in the STEM disciplines at Louisiana State. Following Dr. Warner's presentation there will be free food, soft drinks, information tables, and a performance by Explicit Noise, a multicultural musical group from Falmouth.

All are welcome at any of the week's events to share in the vision of inclusiveness for the Woods Hole research institutions. A detailed schedule for the week's events can be found at <http://www.woodsholediversity.org/>.