



March 23, 2012

C2SEA STEM Initiative Kick Off Event a Success!

By **Dr. Amy Bryant**, Director VI, Curriculum and Instructional Support, Capistrano Unified School District

Dr. Farley, Superintendent of Capistrano Unified School District broadcasted live from San Diego State University's Field Station Santa Margarita Ecological Reserve to officially kick off the pilot for Capistrano Collaborative for STEM Education Advancement (C2SEA), which centers around virtual field trips for students with university and federal agency partners. SDSU Scientist, Pablo Bryant, lead the interactive event from the Santa Margarita River after Dr. Farley welcomed the students.

Behind the scenes University of California San Diego/ High Performance Wireless Research and Education Network – HPWREN - Computer Specialist Jim Hale and National Park Service Scientist Kevin Schallert produced the event.

San Clemente High School's (SCHS) Lisa Kerr's AP Environmental Science class engaged with standards based topics including water rights and effect of man-made water influences on the natural ecosystems.

Students had the opportunity to ask questions and interact with the scientist during the presentation. In addition, the students learned about Pablo's job as a possible STEM career choice and what types of courses and college research experiences he did to prepare for his job.

At SCHS, Principal George Duarte attended along with the students and commented, "I could not stop telling people how much it felt like I had gone on a field trip right there in the classroom." Other comments included, "Is his job as fascinating as it looks?" and "This is really such a cool collaborative project, and so forward thinking – common core in terms of real world application, language, etc."

The next field trip is scheduled for Wednesday, April 4 at 11:00am in Phil Stirtz' Marine Biology Class at Aliso Niguel High School. Trustees are welcome to attend.



*Dr. Farley,
Capistrano Unified School District*



*Pablo Bryant,
San Diego State University*



*Kevin Schallert,
National Park Service*



*Jim Hale,
HPWREN*