FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE TIFFANY & CO. FOUNDATION COMMITS $25,000 TO OCEAN INSTITUTE’S GIRLS IN OCEAN SCIENCE TEEN CONFERENCE

This contribution from a national environmental grantmaker supports an education program that inspires the next generation of female ocean scientists, conservationists, and advocates.

DANA POINT (2019): Ocean Institute announces today that The Tiffany & Co. Foundation has committed $25,000 to support an expanding science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education program that is unique to Southern California. Launched in 2005, the Girls in Ocean Science (GIOS) Conference is a nationally-recognized program that aims to provide inspiration and spark curiosity in middle and high school students through hands-on science workshops and interaction with accomplished female scientists.

Scientists who headline the GIOS Conference represent diverse, ocean scientific fields of study, which include coral conservation and research. This initiative aligns with The Tiffany & Co. Foundation’s long-standing commitment to ocean conservation by promoting the preservation of precious corals and healthy marine ecosystems.

“The Tiffany & Co. Foundation is pleased to support Ocean Institute’s ocean education programs for youth in Southern California—in particular, young women—to inspire future generations of ocean advocates and marine scientists,” said Anisa Kamadoli Costa, Chairman and President of The Tiffany & Co. Foundation. “Younger generations today, as environmental stewards of the future, are an important source of hope for the long-term health of our oceans.”

Taking place in February and March, for middle school and high school students, respectively, the GIOS Conference is a fully-interactive event. Students work side-by-side with the scientists in Ocean Institute’s science labs and on its 70-foot research vessel, R/V Sea Explorer. This program provides access for students and their mentors to explore the 3.5 square mile Dana Point State Marine Conservation Area adjacent to Ocean Institute’s waterfront campus. Students rotate through various ocean-related topical stations and collaborate with scientists to actively conducting research and experiments during the conference.

“The Tiffany & Co. Foundation represents best in class corporate philanthropy that supports impactful ocean programming,” said Ocean Institute president and CEO Dan Pingaro. “The support from The Tiffany & Co. Foundation to Ocean Institute creates a unique alliance that will benefit the ocean and our community while strengthening our organization.”

A portion of the grant from The Tiffany & Co. Foundation will provide access and hands-on STEM education experiences for one hundred underserved students across Southern California. For most of these students from Title I schools, a visit to Ocean Institute will be their first time interacting with the ocean and its local marine life.
The GIOS Conference is within an inventory of carefully designed, implemented and measured ocean-focused programs that promotes the importance of encouraging the next generation of ocean scientists, conservationists and advocates. This life-changing program is able to expand enrollment in 2019 as a result of this grant from The Tiffany & Co. Foundation, and also make further expansion plans for its 15th anniversary in 2020.

**About Ocean Institute**
Ocean Institute is a highly respected ocean science, maritime history and experiential education nonprofit located in Dana Point Harbor, California. Its modern campus is adjacent to the Dana Point State Marine Conservation Area, and encompasses 33,000 square feet of hands-on exhibits, science labs and an aquarium collection of 1,100 live specimens of local marine life. Central to its unique identity throughout California, Ocean Institute operates two impressive tall ships, *Spirit of Dana Point* and *Pilgrim*, a replica of the ship made famous by Richard Henry Dana Jr. in his epic memoir “Two Years Before the Mast.” Ocean Institute also operates the 70-foot research vessel *Sea Explorer*. Over a span of forty years Ocean Institute has enriched the lives of two million California students with a mission of “using the ocean as our classroom, we inspire children to learn.” Ocean Institute serves over 100,000 students, teachers and families each year with a hands-on approach to ocean-related science, research and conservation. Ocean Institute’s diverse elementary, middle and high school program inventory is STEM-focused and aligned with California Common Core Standards. To learn more about Ocean Institute, including the annual Tall Ships Festival presented by Toshiba and the 17th Annual Jazz Festival, please visit [www.oceaninstitute.org](http://www.oceaninstitute.org).

**About The Tiffany & Co. Foundation**
Established in 2000, The Tiffany & Co. Foundation provides grants in environmental conservation, working to preserve the world’s most treasured landscapes and seascapes. The Foundation supports organizations dedicated to the stewardship of natural resources in the areas of responsible mining and coral conservation. For more information on The Tiffany & Co. Foundation, please visit [tiffanyandcofoundation.org](http://tiffanyandcofoundation.org).

###