

TAHOE:  
**STATE  
OF THE  
LAKE**  
REPORT  
**2024**

## EDUCATION AND OUTREACH



**UC DAVIS**  
Tahoe Environmental  
Research Center

### Education and outreach

In 2023

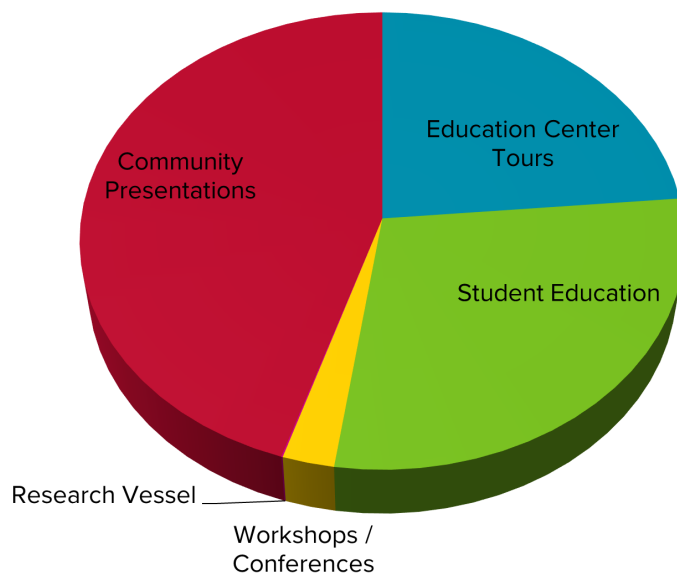
Education and outreach play a complementary role with TERC science and research providing access to educational content developed from technical reports, publications, and data, as well as discussion with TERC researchers. This material is designed for tours, school field trips, programs, exhibits, outreach events, and more. Increasing public accessibility to science fosters a more educated local and visiting population and empowers people to take action.

In 2023, TERC interacted with 12,988 visitors through tours, field trips, lectures, and community events. This represents a 46% increase of interactions for the advancement of TERC and UC Davis. The increasing trend of TERC education is expected

to continue with the development of more innovative and exciting exhibits placed in new locations around the basin.

The TERC Education Team conducted 74 field trips for 3,731 students with themes focused on the lake's aquatic ecosystem, climate change, forest health, geology, microplastics, and misinformation. TERC continued educating the public through lectures, community presentations, and outdoor programming. The monthly lecture series brought science-rich content to 791 community members through 12 lectures. The TERC Education Team participated in community outreach events that reached 5,855 people. This was twice as many people compared to outreach efforts in 2022.

**TOTAL VISITOR CONTACTS = 12,988**



### Educational exhibits

2024

UC Davis TERC continues to expand offerings with exhibits and video content now available at the Tahoe City Visitor Center and Kings Beach Visitor Center. Our team is also contributing exhibit ideas for the League to Save Lake Tahoe's Education Center in South Lake Tahoe. One of our newest exhibits utilizes digital signage players to provide an interactive touchscreen in the Underwater Lake Tahoe lounge and the Tahoe City Visitor Center.

This year, TERC partnered with Truckee Roundhouse and joined their annual Maker Show outreach event. Expanding the popular Robot Rumble event, TERC educators worked

with the TERC CITRIS Robotics Group to help repurpose an older Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) as an education tool. Using a darkened trough filled with water, TERC educators created a controlled environment to allow participants at the Maker Show to operate the ROV and hunt for treasures hidden under the water. This latest teaching tool provides a hands-on engaging way to educate the public about how TERC researchers can collect data in the frigid waters of the Antarctic or less pleasant conditions such as Clear Lake during a harmful algal bloom.



During a preview event, education program manager Alison Toy gives a young visitor a boost to check out the newest Augmented Reality Sandbox installed at the Tahoe City Visitor Center as an extension of the UC Davis Tahoe Science Center.

Photo: North Tahoe Community Alliance



At the Truckee Roundhouse Maker Show, education program associate Penelope Holland explains how to use a TERC Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) that has been retired from research and has found a new role as the latest traveling exhibit used for outreach events.

Photo: S. Harry



Visitors to the Tahoe Science Center Underwater Lounge and the Tahoe City Visitor Center can now view the latest TERC videos showcasing UC Davis Underwater Research at Lake Tahoe through a new touchscreen exhibit.

Photo: P. Holland

### Educational programs

2024

TERC programs aim to highlight the research excellence of UC Davis through a variety of educational opportunities for the Tahoe audience. Topics and themes are chosen for their ability to expand public awareness and knowledge of environmental issues at Lake Tahoe.

In 2024, TERC hosted the 2nd Grow Your Own Community Garden Festival and saw the number of participants double from the previous year. This event is an offshoot of our popular workshops that capitalize on people's love of gardening to get them involved in a long-term varietal phenology project while disseminating information about watershed-friendly gardening practices. On the same day as the festival, TERC brought together faculty, staff, post-doctoral scholars, and graduate students for a TERC-wide staff meeting. This meeting provided the opportunity to showcase TERC's reach beyond Tahoe.

For 16 years, TERC has hosted a monthly lecture series at the Tahoe Science Center in Incline Village. Starting in 2023, TERC brought this lecture series to the California side of the lake, hosting world-class researchers at Granlibakken Tahoe and Sunnyside Restaurant and Lodge in Tahoe City, CA. Occasionally, TERC still hosts a special event at the Tahoe Science Center. At the start of 2024, in collaboration with the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, and the University of Nevada, Reno at Lake Tahoe, TERC presented internationally renowned climate scientist Dr. Katharine Hayhoe to the Tahoe Science Center for an exclusive North Shore presentation. This sold-out event was an extension of Operation Sierra Storm Television Meteorologists' Conference, organized by the Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority. Her inspiring presentation was about how to address climate change by simply talking about it.



In collaboration with the UCCE Lake Tahoe Master Gardeners and Slow Food Lake Tahoe, TERC hosted the second annual Grow Your Own Community Garden Festival bringing over 1,000 participants in three days. Photo: A. Toy



An all staff meeting highlighted TERC's multi-disciplinary fields of study. The Tahoe Basin acts as a living laboratory for aquatic and terrestrial research that TERC can then extend to lakes globally. Photo: Tahoe Yacht Club



Tahoe Regional Planning Agency director Julie Regan, climate scientist Dr. Katharine Hayhoe, and TERC education and outreach director Heather Segale tour the Tahoe Science Center before Hayhoe's sold-out presentation. Photo: A. Toy