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## **FAU Harbor Branch Immersion Tours Launch to the Public**

**FORT PIERCE, Fla. (August 17, 2015) – Back by popular demand!** FAU Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute (HBOI) invites the public to experience “Ocean Science for a Better World<sup>®</sup>” through a new Immersion Tour program, launching in September. Public tours will be every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to noon, beginning Sept. 2 through Dec. 16 at HBOI (5600 U.S. 1 North, Fort Pierce). From January through April, tours will be offered twice each Wednesday to accommodate the larger seasonal crowd.

Immersion tour topic areas include aquaculture, ocean engineering, biomedical research, marine mammal rescue, the Indian River Lagoon and marine resources. Visitors will be given “behind-the-scenes” tours of the lab areas related to the selected topic, with presentations by the researchers working in them. Space will be limited to 12 guests per tour to ensure an intimate experience. Cost for the research-related tours is \$15/adult and \$10/child, and cost for the HBOI overview tour is \$10/adult and \$5/child.

For a full schedule of dates and topics, or to make reservations, contact the HBOI Ocean Discovery Center at 772-242-2293. Payment will be required in advance of tour date.

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### **About Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute:**

*Founded in 1971, Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute at Florida Atlantic University is a research community of marine scientists, engineers, educators and other professionals focused on Ocean Science for a Better World. The institute drives innovation in ocean engineering, at-sea operations, drug discovery and biotechnology from the oceans, coastal ecology and conservation, marine mammal research and conservation, aquaculture, ocean observing systems and marine education. For more information, visit [www.fau.edu/hboi](http://www.fau.edu/hboi).*

### **About Florida Atlantic University:**

*Florida Atlantic University, established in 1961, officially opened its doors in 1964 as the fifth public university in Florida. Today, the University, with an annual economic impact of \$6.3 billion, serves more than 30,000 undergraduate and graduate students at sites throughout its six-county service region in southeast Florida. FAU's world-class teaching and research faculty serves students through 10 colleges: the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters, the College of Business, the College for Design and Social Inquiry, the College of Education, the College of Engineering and Computer Science, the Graduate College, the Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College, the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine, the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing and the Charles E. Schmidt College of Science. FAU is ranked as a High Research Activity institution by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. The University is placing special focus on the rapid development of critical areas that form the basis of its strategic plan: Healthy aging, biotech, coastal and marine issues, neuroscience, regenerative medicine, informatics, lifespan and the environment. These areas provide opportunities for faculty and students to build upon FAU's existing strengths in research and scholarship. For more information, visit [www.fau.edu](http://www.fau.edu).*