

Entrepreneur Educational Center Inc. (EECI) Empowers Future Divers with Professional Scuba Gear at Historic Dive N' Surf

Diving Into Opportunity: EECI Equips the Next Generation of Ocean Explorers with Professional Scuba Gear at Dive N' Surf

LOS ANGELES , CA, UNITED STATES, May 6, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The Entrepreneur Educational Center Inc. (EECI) proudly celebrated a major milestone in its workforce development pipeline as participants in the federally approved Ozie B. Gonzague PADI Certified Open Water Diving Apprentice Program received their full sets of professional scuba gear, completely sponsored by EECI, at the historic Dive N' Surf on Saturday, April 11, 2026.



EECI Divers

This powerful moment marked more than just the distribution of equipment; it symbolized access, opportunity, and the removal of financial barriers that have historically limited entry into the diving industry and the broader Blue Economy.

“

Providing access to high-quality scuba gear is not just about participation; it's about preparation. It gives our students the confidence, credibility, and capability to operate safely.”

EECI Leadership

Founded in 1953, Dive N' Surf stands as one of the most respected and longstanding dive retailers in the United States, making it a fitting backdrop for a transformative experience for EECI's aspiring divers. Barbara Stanton, Executive Director, has made Russ Lessor her Mentor in commercial retail, and she hopes to have a Dive Shop at AltaSea at the Port of Los Angeles, since Mr. Lessor sold

“Body Glove” five years ago.

The cohort, composed of individuals from low-to-moderate income (LMI) communities across

Los Angeles County, was equipped with essential professional-grade scuba gear, positioning them for success as they continue their certification journey and prepare for careers in marine-related industries.

“This is a defining moment for our students,” said a representative from EECI leadership. “Providing access to high-quality scuba gear is not just about participation; it’s about preparation. It gives our students the confidence, credibility, and capability to operate safely and professionally in real-world environments.”

Building Confidence Through Equipment and Education

Proper diving equipment is fundamental to safety, performance, and professional readiness. By eliminating the financial burden associated with acquiring gear, EECI enables its students to fully engage in training with a heightened sense of ownership and responsibility. With their own equipment, students are now able to:

- Develop familiarity and mastery of their gear
- Strengthen adherence to diving safety protocols
- Build confidence in underwater environments
- Transition seamlessly into advanced training and workforce opportunities

This investment reinforces the program’s commitment to cultivating disciplined, safety-conscious divers who are prepared to meet the demands of careers tied to ports, marine science, underwater inspection, environmental conservation, and commercial diving.

Student Impact: Inspiration Meets Opportunity

For many participants, the experience was both emotional and life-changing.

Students expressed deep gratitude for the opportunity, noting that the program has introduced them to career pathways they had never previously considered.

“I never imagined I’d be in a position to own professional scuba gear,” shared one participant.



Diving with EECI



Redondo Beach Scuba Divers

“This program didn’t just teach me how to dive; it showed me a future I didn’t know existed. It pushes me to take this seriously and pursue it as a career.”

Advancing Workforce Pathways in the Blue Economy

The Ozie B. Gonzaque Diving Program is a cornerstone initiative of EECI’s workforce development strategy, designed to connect underrepresented communities to emerging opportunities within the Blue Economy, a sector encompassing maritime industries, ocean exploration, environmental sustainability, and port-related careers.

Through a structured combination of training, mentorship, and real-world exposure, EECI continues to bridge the gap between untapped talent and high-growth industries.

“Our mission is to open doors,” added EECI leadership. “Moments like this demonstrate what’s possible when access meets preparation.”

About Entrepreneur Educational Center Inc.

The Entrepreneur Educational Center Inc. (EECI) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to expanding economic opportunity by providing free high-impact programs of entrepreneurship education, workforce development, and community-based programming to low-to moderate-income (LMI) communities throughout Los Angeles County’s 2nd District and Harbor Gateway corridor. This year, EECI is presenting its 2nd annual fundraising concert, Summer of Soul 2026, hosted by Tami Mack of KJLH, featuring the legendary talents of R&B Artist Jeffrey Osborne and the electrifying percussionist and icon, Sheila E, on June 27th, 2026, at the magnificent Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts, 18000 Park Plaza Drive, Cerritos, CA 90703.

Krissy Robinson

Kandykane Konsultants

+1 818-943-7503

Krissy@kandykanetheplug.com

Visit us on social media:

[Instagram](#)

This press release can be viewed online at: <https://www.einpresswire.com/article/910655399>

EIN Presswire's priority is source transparency. We do not allow opaque clients, and our editors try to be careful about weeding out false and misleading content. As a user, if you see something we have missed, please do bring it to our attention. Your help is welcome. EIN Presswire, Everyone's Internet News Presswire™, tries to define some of the boundaries that are reasonable in today's world. Please see our Editorial Guidelines for more information.

© 1995-2026 Newsmatics Inc. All Right Reserved.