



## **NYS Assembly Members Tour the YESS! Program for Children at KCC**

On August 1, KCC welcomed New York State Assembly Member Jamie Williams, Assemblywoman Monique Chandler-Waterman, Assembly Member Alec Brook-Krasny, Assemblywoman Weinstein, and Assembly Member Stacey Pheffer Amato for a tour of the R/V CUNY 1 vessel. The visit, organized by KCC's Department of Workforce Development, Continuing Education & Strategic Partnerships, and the KCC maritime technology program, showcased the YOUTH ENGAGEMENT SUMMER STEM at SEA! (YESSS!) program.

Now in its second year, YESSS! runs from July 8 to August 29, serving 320 middle and high school students. The program is made possible by grants totaling \$180,000 from Assembly Members Williams (\$135,000), Helene Weinstein (\$20,000), Monique Chandler (\$15,000), and Stacey Pheffer Amato (\$10,000).

In partnership with BioBoat, KCC offers participants aged 11-17 a free, four-day Summer at Sea adventure. The program aims to cultivate the next generation of environmental stewards by immersing youth in New York City's aquatic ecosystems. The BioBoat team included leads, Stephen Fleming and Bill Livingston.

On board the R/V CUNY 1, students participated in various hands-on scientific activities such as:

- fish and invertebrate identification
- plankton tow identification

- oyster reef community studies
- plastic collection and analysis

Through beachcombing and on-board research, YESSS! exposed young people to the excitement of scientific inquiry while exploring the city's estuaries and beaches. News 12 reported on the visit [here](#).

