

PRESS RELEASE

BAYWORK Joins Blue Economy Leaders for Global Blue Job Shadow Day™ on February 2, 2026

Mill Valley, CA — The Stone Soup Leadership Institute announces that **BAYWORK's Laura Coombs** will join with Blue Economy leaders from the U.S. and Portugal at the **Global Blue Job Shadow Day™ on February 2, 2026.**

The Institute's Global Blue Job Shadow Day™ is a one-hour hybrid event featuring communities in the U.S. (California and New England) and Portugal (Lisbon and Peniche) who are pioneers in the Blue Economy. Each location features speakers from business, government, education, and youth sharing their experiences, challenges, best practices and lessons learned in workforce development for a vibrant Blue Economy.

Ms. Coombs will share BAYWORK's comprehensive workforce development programs with its network of water and wastewater agencies in the San Francisco Bay Area focused on workforce reliability through regional collaboration. Baywork's intern Shamim Golshani will share his life-changing experience with their program.

Other speakers include **Marin County Supervisor Stephanie Moulton-Peters** who supported the Institute receiving a grant for its first Blue Job Shadow Day in partnership with the College of Marin. "I am so glad you are "connecting all the dots," said Ms. Moulton-Peters. "You are so wise to cultivate partnerships with our local communities in Sausalito, Tiburon and the Romberg Center to explore the opportunities for a Blue Economy initiative. These communities are in the best position to identify specific current and new opportunities for the Blue Economy to manifest in Southern Marin."

"This is the wave of the future," said **Hog Island Oyster Co.**'s co-founder John Finger at 2025 event. "Business helping solve environmental problems and setting the sail and rudder in the right position is what we're all about."

This year's Global Blue Job Shadow Day™ builds on last year's initiative where CoM students served as the Institute's paid interns to research Blue Economy Pathways and make recommendations for how the College might expand its academic offerings to address the need for workforce development training. Tiburon resident

Alexandra Loucks championed the Clean Water Management Pathway. She discovered that:

- 37% of California's water workforce is over 50, leading to a wave of retirements known as the "silver tsunami."
- 67% of California water agencies report difficulties in recruiting water and wastewater operators.

"As a community college, The College of Marin can prepare students for high-demand, stable careers that also help safeguard communities since these careers ensure clean waterways, regulatory compliance, and the responsible reuse of water resources," said Ms. Loucks.

"The Blue Job Shadow Day sparked an ongoing exploration of the Blue Economy," said **College of Marin's** President, Dr. Jonathan Eldridge. "We will take the lead on convening our workforce deans for a Bay Area consortium for Blue Economy Climate Action Program (BECAP)-like endeavor."

"We're grateful to Steve Moore at **Ross Valley Sanitation District** for hosting the 2026 Global Blue Job Shadow Day in Marin County," said Marianne Larned, The Institute's Founding Director. "We're pleased that representatives from the **Canal Alliance** and **Marin City** will join and explore possible partnerships with **Baywork.**"

"At a time when international collaboration matters more than ever, this event shows how the U.S. can learn from other Blue Economy leaders like Portugal so we can build bridges with business, education and government leaders to prepare our young people to become champions of the Blue Economy in their community and our world," says Ms. Larned.

To RSVP for this in-person event & for more information, visit: www.GlobalBlueJobShadowDay.org

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About the Stone Soup Leadership Institute

The Stone Soup Leadership Institute is a global non-profit organization in 1997. Its mission is to develop educational tools, training and initiatives that connect business, education, government leaders to empower their young people to become leaders of a more humanistic and sustainable world. The Stone Soup Model embraces the principles of Design Thinking, Systems Thinking and Healthy Communities to develop innovative initiatives to address complex issues in their communities.

The Institute's Blue Economy Initiative in Marin, CA [site](#)

The **Global Blue Job Shadow Day™** is a strategic way to engage the business community to collaborate with the education community to develop customized workforce development initiatives. We first developed the Job Shadow Day in the early 90's in partnership with the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce. Over the years, it has been adopted by national organizations and has impacted millions of high school and community college students. The Institute has been working with Blue Economy leaders in Portugal's communities in the U.S. from Martha's Vineyard, Newport, New Bedford, Fall River, Taunton, Boston and San Francisco. In conjunction with my new book, *Stone Soup for a Sustainable World*, we've tailored the program to guide students with a **Green Job Shadow Day** (2023 & 2024) and a **Blue Job Shadow Day** (2025).

About FLAD

Luso-American Development Foundation (FLAD) awarded a grant for the Global Blue Job Shadow Day.

Fundaçāo Luso-Americana para o Desenvolvimento strengthens cooperation between Portugal and the United States through strategic support for education, innovation, culture, and sustainability initiatives. To secure the future of our oceans and water systems, the Stone Soup Leadership Institute is proud to announce that the Luso-American Development Foundation (FLAD) has awarded a grant for the Global Blue Job Shadow Day (GBJSD).

Learn more: www.flad.pt