Daniel T. Stetson

Dan Stetson is the Executive Director and a Trustee of The Nicholas Endowment. The Endowment was created by Broadcom co-founder Dr. Henry Nicholas III and his wife Stacey Nicholas to provide financial support to charitable organizations in the advancement of science, education and the arts.

Dan served as President and CEO of the Ocean Institute from 2005-2015, after having joined the Institute in 1992. The Ocean Institute is an educational non-profit organization located in Dana Point, California that provides inspiring marine science and maritime history programs for over 100,000 students annually. Under Dan's leadership, the programs became nationally renowned and received numerous awards including the inaugural Walter Cronkite Award for Excellence in Maritime Education.

Immediately prior to his tenure at the Ocean Institute, Dan consulted for the law firm of Pillsbury, Madison & Sutro representing a foreign shipping company involved in an oil spill incident. Dan managed the compensation process for over 2,000 claimants from the largest oil spill in the LA Harbor's history. While the spill was originally attributed to his client's cargo ship, Dan's efforts led to the discovery of evidence that the majority of the spill was actually from a previously unidentified ship. Dan testified as an expert witness in criminal court. In the resulting trial, 100% of the client's multimillion dollar clean up and claims expenses were recovered.

Prior to his oil spill consulting, Dan served as the Vice President and General Manager of Calypso Marine, Inc. with sailing schools and charter operations in San Diego, Newport Beach, Marina Del Rey, and Ventura. Dan is an accomplished sailor having competed in two Transpacific Yacht Races to Hawaii – the first one at age 17.

Dan previously served on the board of directors for the Dana Point Chamber of Commerce, Tall Ships America, Orange County Grant Makers and the Ocean Institute. He currently volunteers for several non-profits including CSULB's Shark Lab, The Ocean Lab, Surfrider, Get Inspired, OC Executive Coaches and OC Grant Makers. Dan has also volunteered for the San Onofre Community Engagement Panel since 2014.

Dan has a BA in English from UC Santa Barbara and an MBA from California State University, Fullerton. He is a veteran of the US Coast Guard and holds a Master's Mariner Credential. Dan's wife, Roxanne, serves on the advisory board for the Thompson Autism and Neurodevelopmental Center at CHOC. She is a speech pathologist who retired after working 37 years in special education with children with autism. Married for 36 years, together they enjoy hiking, tennis and diving.