Biographical Sketch – H. Tuba Özkân-Haller

H. Tuba Özkân-Haller is the Interim Dean of Oregon State University’s College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences. CEOAS is the center of Earth sciences research and academic programs at Oregon State. Its oceanography program is ranked no. 3 in the world.

Özkân-Haller previously served as Associate Vice President for Research Administration and Development in OSU’s central administration, where she led the Office of Sponsored Research and Awards Administration. In her role as Associate Vice President, she also worked on building the university’s research development capacity and providing strategy to meet the needs of OSU’s growing research enterprise. In addition, she led OSU’s efforts to continue with research activities – including laboratory, field, and seagoing activities – through the onset and evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to that, she served as Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Advancement in the College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences, where she led college-level research development and faculty advancement activities, and helped navigate the aftermath of a major fire in one of the college’s research buildings.

As a faculty member, she focuses on the use of numerical, field, laboratory, and analytical approaches to arrive at a predictive understanding of waves, circulation, and beach change in the nearshore ocean, including the continental shelf, the surf zone, inlets, and estuaries. The results of this work are being applied to navigational planning, for the development and design of wave energy conversion devices, and for forecasting of beach-goer hazards.

She has also extensively engaged in work to increase diversity and inclusivity in academia and was a co-Principal Investigator for OSU’s ADVANCE grant from the National Science Foundation aimed at increasing the participation of women and other under-represented groups within faculty in STEM disciplines. She has given various invited talks on this subject, including a plenary talk at the 2018 Goldschmidt Conference of the Geochemical Society and the European Association of Geochemistry.

Nationally, Özkân-Haller is currently serving as a member on two Federal Advisory Committees: the Hydrographic Survey Review Panel of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Board on Coastal Engineering Research of the Army Corps of Engineers. She has previously served for two terms as a member of the Ocean Studies Board of the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) and has participated in various NASEM studies, including as the chair of a consensus study on the future of the U.S. Gulf Coast.

Özkân-Haller is passionate about communicating science to the public and has appeared in various documentaries produced by the History Channel, the National Geographic Channel, and Oregon Public Broadcasting, and was quoted in numerous news segments and newspaper articles, most recently about sneaker wave fatalities along the Pacific Northwest Coastline of the US. She has also authored various opinion pieces.

Özkân-Haller is the recipient of the Office of Naval Research Young Investigator Award, the Outstanding Faculty Member Award at the University of Michigan as well as the Pattullo Award for Excellence in Teaching Award and the Woman of Excellence Award at OSU. She holds a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Boğaziçi University in Istanbul, Turkey, and a M.C.E. and Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from the University of Delaware.