Farmingville, NY – On Saturday, November 21, Councilwoman Valerie M. Cartright participated in the First Annual Youth Ocean Conservation Summit. The goal of the summit was to allow 50 high school students from various schools to present their projects on ocean conservation and to discuss conservation issues in New York.

The Summit took place at Stony Brook University's Wang Center. Opening remarks were given by Bill Wise, Director of Sea Grant, and David Chase, Coastal Steward Director and convener of the event. Assemblyman Steve Englebright also addressed the attendees. The Keynote Speaker was Fabien Cousteau, aquatic filmmaker and oceanographic explorer, and grandson of Jacques Cousteau.

During the six hour event, students developed their proposed projects, received training in framing their ideas, and had the opportunity to attend workshops in brainstorming and skill building and small group discussions. At the conclusion of the day, group leaders gave summaries of the potential projects.

"As the Councilmember Environmental Protection Liaison, I am excited to see the next generation of budding scientists explore their fresh ideas about how to conserve and protect our natural resources," stated Councilwoman Cartright.