

Education Special Interest Group

AGU EDUCATION

August 2018

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Dear ESIG Members,

I hope you are as enthusiastic about the recently created [Education Section](#) as I am!

The AGU Leadership Development/Governance Committee is in the process of selecting founding leaders for the section and working on the transition to elected leadership in the next year. When [joining AGU or renewing their 2019 membership](#), members can now select Education as their primary or secondary section. We hope you will join the Education Section and volunteer for the unique opportunity to provide input and help shape the future of the discipline.

ESIG members will not automatically be enrolled in the new section, so we strongly encourage you to make this selection when you renew your AGU membership. If you have already renewed your membership, you can [log in to your member profile](#) and select the Education Section. If you are not currently an AGU member, consider becoming one and joining this new section. And, of course, if you have any questions or problems making the update, you can always contact AGU's Member Service Center at service@agu.org or 1-800-966-2481/1-202-462-6900, and they will be happy to assist you.

In addition, this will be my last ESIG newsletter, as my internship at AGU is quickly wrapping up. I am sure many of you are preparing for the start of the academic school year; I hope you will find the variety of new and innovative education and outreach initiatives featured in this month's ESIG to be particularly helpful.

Per usual, if there is any news or information that you believe to be relevant to the ESIG community, please do not hesitate to [get in touch](#). We would be happy to include your announcement in next month's ESIG.

Best,
Danya AbdelHameid
Talent Pool Intern

News

1. Still Time to Apply to the AGU Data Visualization and Storytelling Competition!

Funded by NASA, the [Data Visualization and Storytelling Competition](#) encourages students to develop innovative and engaging ways to present their data. Grand prize winners will receive generous travel grants and the opportunity to present their data visualization on the NASA Hyperwall at AGU's Fall Meeting 2018. Submission deadline: 31 August 2018.



2. Call for Nominations: Inclusive Geoscience Education and Research (IGER) Award

The International Association for Geoscience Diversity (IAGD) is offering [two awards](#) to geoscience professionals, Earth science students, faculty, and staff at all levels of academia who have demonstrated excellence in promoting inclusiveness and participation of those with disabilities in the geosciences field. One award will be given for research and the other for efforts in teaching. Nominations deadline: 1 October.

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Higher Education

1. Advising a Senior Thesis Student This School Year?

According to a recent study, the secret to a great senior thesis is preparation. The study collected almost 800 self-evaluations from students who had completed a senior thesis and found that students who had access to other preparatory experiences prior to beginning their thesis work produced theses that were of higher quality. But what makes for a high-quality thesis? [Read](#) more about what exactly makes for a great thesis and how you can help your students get the most out of their thesis experience.



2. For Low-Income, First-Year Students, Family Support Is Key

Do you teach or advise first-year undergraduate students? A new study has found that parental support is critical to the success of these students. The [study](#) tracked the academic outcomes of more than 700 first-year students at eight different 4-year institutions and found that students who received emotional support from their family had higher GPAs and were more likely to continue their education.

3. Connecting Students and Mentors Through Local Research Hubs

A new [pilot program](#) at Colorado State University uses an online database to connect students from underrepresented minority (URM) backgrounds to geoscience research projects that can provide them with valuable hands-on research experience. Through the database, students are matched directly to projects that fit their interests. So far, the database has led to a 30% increase in the participation of URM students in undergraduate research projects. Could this model work at your university?

4. Helping Students Develop Scientific Literacy Skills

Scientific literacy, or the ability to understand scientific results and concepts and apply this understanding to decision-making, is a critical skill for the next generation of Earth and space scientists. [Read](#) more about how Sarah Fortner, associate professor of geology at Wittenberg University in Ohio, is urging geoscience faculty to support students as they cultivate scientific literacy and critical thinking skills.

K–12

1. [Apply to Present at the 2018 GIFT Workshop!](#)

[Applications](#) for presentations at the Geophysical Information for Teachers (GIFT) workshop at Fall Meeting 2018 are now being accepted from teams composed of at least one scientist and at least one education specialist (e.g., outreach specialist, science teacher). Presenters will deliver a talk on an Earth or space science topic appropriate for K–12 educators coupled with one or more closely related hands-on classroom activities. Application deadline: 31 August 2018.



2. [Want to Learn More About Federal Geoscience Education Policy?](#)

Check out the debut issue of [Federal Geoscience Education Policy Review](#), provided by the American Geosciences Institute's Department of Education and Policy. This issue breaks down funding of federal science and education agencies for 2018 and 2019; congressional legislation affecting STEM education; White House initiatives and agency updates; and various federal grants, meetings, and reports.

3. [Using Film to Teach Students About Climate Change](#)

The [Lens on Climate Change](#) (LOCC) program at the University of Colorado's Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences, is an outreach and education initiative dedicated to teaching middle and high school students about climate change. Through the program, students develop a deep, nuanced understanding of the complexities of climate change and communicate that understanding through film. Interested in creating a similar program in your community? The team behind the innovative effort recently published a [paper](#) on program outcomes and best practices for executing similar media-based education efforts.

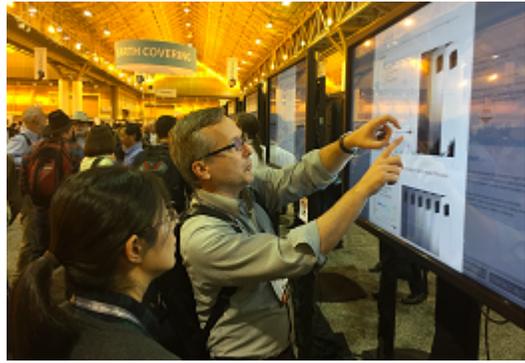
4. [Shaking Science's Superiority Complex](#)

"Science isn't the only way of knowing. How can we capture that nuance in our work and on our T-shirts?" writes AGU Thriving Earth Exchange director Raj Pandya in a recent blog post. [Read](#) more about how scientists and science educators can ensure that they are not unknowingly discounting other ways of knowing in their work .

Students

1. [Fall 2018 Virtual Poster Showcase Abstract Submissions Open!](#)

The Virtual Poster Showcase (VPS) is a guided peer review process and online presentation competition for Earth and space science, held remotely every fall and spring. Student participants can hone their presentation skills in a low-pressure environment and connect with other like-minded students and experts from around the globe. Interested in participating in our [fall showcase](#)? Now is the time to start preparing your abstract! Be sure to check out some of our [top tips and tricks](#) for preparing a successful abstract. Abstract submission deadline: 2 October 2018.



2. Call for Nominations: The K. Patricia Cross Future Leaders Award

This [award](#) recognizes graduate students who have shown great potential for leadership in higher education as demonstrated by their teaching and development of others as leaders and scholars. Doctoral and master's students in terminal degrees that are interested in a career in higher education are welcome to apply. Awardees will receive travel, lodging, and conference registration for the 2019 Association of American Colleges and Universities meeting and a 1-year affiliation with the organization. Application deadline: 1 October 2018.

3. Ten Things to Know This Summer

The summer is quickly wrapping up, but it's not over just yet! If you're going to be completing your graduate degree in the upcoming school year and are looking for an academic position, there are a [variety of things](#) you can do in the last few weeks of the summer that can help to make the transition from graduate school to your next position a smoother one.

4. Using Social Media as a Graduate Student

Do you use social media in a professional capacity? Maybe you have a blog or a Twitter or Instagram account. Regardless of the medium, keeping a productive and beneficial social media presence requires careful thought and planning. [Here](#) are some tips and tricks to help you cultivate your social media presence. Also be sure to check out AGU's [Sharing Science](#) program for [additional tips](#) on how to communicate your science using social media.

5. Outreach Opportunity: Apply to Be a Pen Pal Mentor for a Pre-Scientist!

Looking for a new way to share your science? How about a pen pal–based program to introduce middle and high school students to the day-to-day work of a scientist? The [Letters to a Pre-Scientist](#) program is a yearlong program that pairs students from backgrounds that are underrepresented in STEM disciplines with pen pal mentors across the world. Mentors must complete an hour-long online training session and are expected to write a minimum of four letters per school year. [Apply](#) to be a mentor today! Application deadline: 2 October 2018.

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