

Education Special Interest Group

AGU EDUCATION

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Dear ESIG Members,

Fall Meeting 2018 is quickly approaching, and all of us here at AGU Headquarters are excited to welcome you to Washington, D. C., in a few short months. We have an action-packed agenda of presentations and workshops planned and hope that you will join us as we celebrate the new Education section at Fall Meeting.

The AGU Leadership Development/Governance Committee is in the process of selecting founding leaders for the new section and working on the transition to elected leadership in the next year. When joining AGU or renewing their 2019 membership, AGU 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 on agu.org and select the Education section. If you are not currently an AGU member, please 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 staff will be happy to assist you.

As always, 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 will be happy to include your announcement in next month's ESIG newsletter.

Best wishes,
Pranoti Asher, Ph.D.
Higher Education Manager, AGU

News

1. Volunteer to Judge in the Outstanding Student Presentation Awards (OSPA) at Fall Meeting 2018

Volunteer judges are essential to the OSPA judging process and student experience. OSPA needs member volunteers to help judge student presentations throughout the week of Fall Meeting 2018. For more information on the process and criteria, visit the [OSPA page](#).



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.](#)

3. Why Aren't the Geosciences More Racially and Ethnically Diverse?

In a new [blog post](#), marine science graduate student Michelle Guitard offers a fresh perspective on the topic and suggests that childhood exposure to the outdoors might be a crucial aspect to understanding diversity in the geosciences.

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Higher Education

1. Recognizing Nonfaculty Educators

Faculty aren't the only ones working to educate and advise the next generation of Earth and space scientists. In fact, there is a large (and growing) contingent of academic technologists and other learning professionals who are directly involved in student learning and instruction. [Read](#) more about how some nonfaculty educators are working to bring new visibility to their role in higher education.



2. Rewarding Scientists for Communicating to the Public

In this insightful [blog post](#), graduate postdoctoral researcher Esther Ngumbi underscores the importance of science communication and science outreach and urges the scientific community to hold these endeavors in higher regard when considering matters of promotion and tenure.

3. How to Teach Students the Art and Science of Geologic Illustration

In Earth and space science, the ability to produce simple, clear diagrams that demonstrate complex processes is a crucial skill. In this three-part [blog post series](#), University of Colorado geology professor Craig Jones shares tips on how to teach students the art and science behind scientific illustrations and figures.

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K–12

1. Register for the Geophysical Information for Teachers (GIFT) Workshop

Educators may now register to attend GIFT. In this 2-day workshop at AGU's Fall Meeting 2018, you will hear from scientists about the latest research and learn new ways to incorporate science into your classroom. Attendees will receive classroom materials and teaching guides and have access to a variety of demonstrations of hands-on activities designed to engage students in learning about geoscience that can be applied in your own classroom. Visit the [GIFT Workshop page](#) to learn how to register. You will be asked to provide credentials to verify that you are a K–12 educator as a part of the registration process.



2. Looking for Earth Science Teaching Materials?

The Science Education Resource Center at Carleton College offers a variety of Earth science–related teaching materials, covering such topics as climate change, environmental justice, and planetary science through its [Teach the Earth](#) initiative. These resources are freely available to educators, and you can even submit your own teaching resources for other educators to reference.

3. Resources to Support Students with Disabilities

There have been many recent efforts to promote inclusion in the Earth and space sciences that are directed specifically to students living with disabilities. The Supporting and Advancing Geoscience Education at Two-Year Colleges ([SAGE 2YC](#)) project has compiled [relevant resources](#) for faculty or instructors at 2-year colleges who are interested in fostering access and inclusion through their classes and curriculum.

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Students

1. Planning to Attend Fall Meeting 2018 and Looking for a Mentor?

AGU offers a variety of mentoring programs at Fall Meeting that cater to students and early-career professionals with a variety of interests and goals. You can be matched up with a mentor through our [Fall Meeting Mentoring Program](#) or take advantage of our [Career and Research Advice Mentorship](#) (CRAM) sessions, which offer informal, 20-minute office-hours-esque career consultations. Regardless of which program you choose, our [mentoring and career resources](#) are sure to help you get the most out of Fall Meeting 2018.



2. Fall 2018 Virtual Poster Showcase Abstract Submission 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.

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

The [K. Patricia Cross Future Leaders Award](#) recognizes graduate students who have shown great potential for leadership in higher education through their teaching and development of others as leaders and scholars. Doctoral and master's students in terminal degrees who 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 & Universities meeting and a 1-year affiliation with the organization. Application deadline: 1 October 2018.

4. Learning to Advocate for Yourself

In science, and in many other career paths, it is critical to be able to effectively advocate for yourself to ensure that your work and your efforts receive the recognition they deserve. [Read](#) more about how graduate student Vanessa Sung learned to conquer her “personal Everest” by becoming her own biggest advocate.

5. Recommendations for Requesting Recommendations

Are you applying for graduate school, a fellowship, a grant, or any other opportunity that requires you to submit a letter of recommendation as part of the application process? Virtually all opportunities require a letter of recommendation, and while it may seem like the ball is in your recommender's court for a majority of the letter-writing process, there are [a few things](#) you can do to help secure a strong letter of recommendation.

6. Managing Grief While in Graduate School

Dealing with grief and loss in your personal life can certainly affect your professional work, whether you are a graduate student or not. In this thoughtful [blog post](#), graduate student Rachel Wigginton shares suggestions for managing the unique personal and professional challenges that arise when dealing with grief.

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