



## Education

January 2019 – Education Newsletter

Dear Education Section member:

Welcome to the inaugural Education Section Newsletter!

As the American Geophysical Union celebrates its Centennial year, we would like to invite you to engage with the AGU by volunteering to play a role in our new Education Section and other AGU activities. The new Volunteer Central on AGU Connect has information on a wide range of opportunities, and we encourage you to AGU. Please do encourage anyone who is interested in advancing Earth and Space Science Education to join our Section by indicating Education as their primary or secondary affiliation. find out more about those that suit your expertise and interests.

We are committed to engaging with our members in the US and around the world as well as to addressing the diverse needs of our members, irrespective of their career stage or type of their home institution. As we prepare for the launch of the initial Community Needs Assessment, there will be ways that you can help us shape our Section together. We would also like to build a strong collective voice on educational matters for the

Our future newsletters and other communication will be through the AGU Education Section on AGU Connect Community. We look forward very much to hearing from you via the AGU Connect.

Best wishes,

Vincent Tong (Secretary, AGU Education Section; Chair of the Communication Working Group)

Tanya Furman (President-elect, AGU Education Section)

Mark Moldwin (President, AGU Education Section)

## **AGU News and other Items**

### *Experience Fall Meeting with AGU GO*

Missed Fall Meeting, or wish you were able to attend that one session? This year, AGU has recorded a selection of sessions and events available for viewing, free of charge. To see Centennial-focused programming, additional recorded content, presenter interviews, and networking opportunities, [register for AGU GO](#).

### *New report from the National Academies*

According to a new [report](#) published by the National Academies of Sciences, Minority-Serving Colleges and Universities are positioned to serve as a greater resource for meeting U.S. STEM workforce needs, but increased attention and investments are needed

### *Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Earth and Environmental Sciences: Supporting the Success of All Students Workshop*

This workshop will focus on supporting the success of all students, including addressing the diversity of your program's student body, evaluating and strengthening your program design, and incorporating inclusive and equitable teaching practices. See the [workshop website](#) for more information and visit the [the workshop overview web page](#) to read more about the format, expectations, application process, and selection criteria of this workshop. [Applications](#) for the workshop are due **Monday, January 28**.

## **Higher Education**

### *Supporting students*

Faculty play a huge role in supporting student experiences in their classroom and in their programs. This Tomorrow's Professor [posting](#) discusses how one can support students facing mental health challenges

### *Teaching about biodiversity*

Our knowledge about the Earth's biodiversity across space, time, and scale is expanding rapidly. How do we

teach students about biodiversity at different scales and contexts with new data, tools, and resources coming online? Receive fresh ideas at the 5<sup>th</sup> Life Discovery – Doing Science Education [conference](#).

## **K – 12**

*Nominations for AAPG Foundation Teacher of the Year Award due February 1*

The American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG) Foundation [Teacher of the Year](#) award is part of AAPG Foundation's Excellence in Teaching Awards program. This award is funded and given annually by the AAPG Foundation to a deserving K-12 Earth science teacher within the United States who has demonstrated outstanding leadership in the field of geoscience education. The award includes a commemorative plaque, an expense paid trip to the next AAPG Annual Convention & Exhibition in San Antonio, and a \$6,000 monetary award. The deadline for this application cycle is **Feb. 1, 2019**.

## **Students**

*Securing a good reference*

Why should you ask? Who should you ask? When should you ask? Whether you're applying for graduate school, post docs, or a job, you'll need a good reference or recommendation. This *Inside Higher Ed* [article](#) provides some helpful advice on how to get the right reference.

*Preventing burnout*

How can one stay motivated and prevent burnout during the dissertation writing stage of graduate program? Read this insightful [piece](#) and learn some tips.

*Applications for scholarships for field studies*

Each year, the National Association for Geoscience Teachers makes several \$750 [awards](#) to undergraduate students to facilitate their study of field geoscience. These awards, previously given to students who attend a traditional summer field camp, are now available for students attending field-based courses at any time of year. The intent of the awards is to support students' participation in intensive field courses in any aspect of geoscience (including geophysics, soil science, hydrology, etc.) that focuses on students practicing skills of field observation, data collection, analysis and synthesis. Awardees are selected based on the importance of the

field experience in meeting their educational and career goals, the quality of the field aspects of the course, and the importance of the financial award in allowing them to participate in the program. In addition, the committee endeavors to select awardees that expand the diversity of people studying geosciences in the field and a collaboration with the Association for Women Geoscientists (AWG) funds two additional awards specifically for women. The deadline for application is **February 14**.