

2025 Mineralogy, Geochemistry, Volcanology, and Petrology (MGPV) Early Geological Career Award to Madison L. Myers: Acceptance

By Madison L. Myers, Montana State University
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I feel deep gratitude to have received this award. First and foremost, my deepest thanks to Paul Wallace for both leading the nomination, and providing my citation. I am always impressed by your calming presence, and ability to present information in a way that is thoughtful, educational, and impeccably laid out. You continue to represent the scientist that I hope to one day become.

I also would like to thank the MGPV Early Career Award committee and the Geological Society of America for such a delightful honor. To be able to celebrate my path, my mentors, collaborators, friends and mentees, with the community that I deeply love, is truly a one-in-a-lifetime gift. Of course, I am also grateful for the mentorship and support of my other letter writers, Colin Wilson, Tim Druitt, and Jim Watkins, all of whom were and continue to be influential in forming my scientific journey.



No one's path is without a long list of experiences, setbacks and moments that shape you as an individual. I feel extraordinary lucky for my journey. I started as a geology major at the University of New Hampshire, where my undergraduate mentor, Julie Bryce, made sure that I explored all research labs before finally accepting that studying volcanic processes through a geochemical approach was my passion, not just her influence. I then ended up pursuing a master's with Dennis Geist, which opened my mind to what the field of volcanology could include. It is here where I met some of my closest friends to this day, including a lifelong mentor in Erika Rader. As I learned how to pick olivine crystals, intersect melt inclusions, run the FTIR, and eventually gain the courage to ask Paul Wallace how to use Beer Lambert Law, I was also setting my path towards a PhD at the University of Oregon.

My PhD was fabulous. I loved every moment of the experience. I grew as an individual, a scientist, and gained an even deeper appreciation for our volcanology community – my second family. To this day, whenever I start a new graduate student in my own lab group, I find myself reflecting on how to best guide them to have as enriching of a graduate

experience: apply for everything, talk with everyone, join every reading group, attend all of the workshops, embrace that our community is excited to support your path, and avoid people that don't boost you up.

I spent so much time in my pre-tenure path fighting the feedback that I did 'too much service'. I didn't want to believe that spending my time fighting for field safety and inclusion discussions, supporting ECRs paths and running community events were not worthy uses of time. I wanted to use my positioning to push back against the system of what is valued pre-tenure. And I feel grateful that in my citation, and in my evaluation, that those traits were seen as strengths. We have a lot to do to ensure that individuals from all backgrounds are being supported on their path, which requires recognition of who and for whom institutions and programs were formed.

Lastly, no person wins awards without a crazy number of folks helping them on their journey. Most notably, I am extremely grateful for the students I have mentored over the last 7 years. Their hard work helped me receive tenure, earn this award, and support important conversations in our communities. I am so lucky to be able to work and learn from these students every day. The hardest part of my career path was that uncertain period between the end of my PhD and the permanent job. Although we are all driven by the passion of science, these are extremely stressful times where I at least felt isolated – feeling like my lack of a clear next step was a personal failure. We need to do better guiding folks through these transitional stages, which I hope to work on as I continue to grow as a mentor.