**INCLUDES EarthConnections Proposal**

**Our Project Summary:**

Our proposal will focus on facilitating the development of regional pathways for groups underrepresented in the sciences, pathways designed to link together opportunities to learn geoscience and then to use that learning in the local community at multiple points in students educational progress (e.g. elementary, middle, high, college). These pathways can make use of formal or informal educational opportunities, or both, and should ultimately lead to employment opportunities. Our project will facilitate the ability of regional groups, called ***Regional Alliances*** (RA), to draw on the programs and expertise of national ***program partners*** to strengthen existing educational opportunities and link them into a pathway. These Program Partners provide an important opportunity for local groups to link to larger national programs and resources. A ***Consulting Core*** of individuals with broad expertise in organizing and coordinating geoscience education will also be available to work directly with the RA in trouble-shooting and problem solving as these groups are developing. Our project, in addition to developing strategies to support the regional groups in establishing a pathway vision and collaborating with the Program Partners, and offering support from the Consulting Core, will establish a ***Community of Practice*** that will help us all learn from each other and become a force for global sustainability and resilience. Each of these key roles is explained below.

**Program Partners:**

- Program Partners agree to bring their programs, or expertise, to RAs to help them strengthen their pathways. Recall that a pathway involves linking together opportunities to learn geoscience in the context of societal issues (defined broadly) with opportunities to use that knowledge in service to the local community. Benefits to Partners include: (1) Program Partners would receive funding to provide this support through a proposal submitted by the Regional Alliance requesting assistance from you. (2) In addition, a strong benefit comes from broadly sharing information about your program or resource with a group currently underrepresented in STEM, in order to better prepare them for engagement in both addressing real challenges in their community, and in facilitating their entry into the workplace.

**Consultant Core:**

- Partnering programs can nominate an individual to be part of the Consultant Corp. A consultant agrees to help establish RAs and support them in pathway development by; (1) participating in trainings that prepare them to both engage with the local community and be able to share information about the programs and expertise of the program partners; (2) working with 2-3 RAs through a series of virtual and face to face meetings to; (3) facilitating their interactions with program partners. Consultants will be paid a stipend of $10K per year for their work and agree to serve for 3 years. We plan to have 10 consultants in year 1 with 10 more coming on in each subsequent year of the grant.

**Community of Practice**

- You can chose to just be part of the Community of Practice, which will bring together all those who are interested in bringing together communities, geoscience and geoscience education to strengthen community geoscience literacy, community capacity to use geoscience to solve problems and create opportunities, and bring geoscience research into action in communities. EarthConnections will host both an ongoing virtual program and an annual summit to strengthen and build this Community.