

NAGT Advocacy Committee
Annual Report
September 1, 2019—August 31, 2020

The NAGT Advocacy Committee promotes (geo)scientific literacy, advocates for all levels of geoscience education, and encourages the use of geoscience information in public decision-making. The Advocacy Committee provides expertise to NAGT and works with affiliated organizations on matters of public policy and advocacy. The Advocacy Committee's Guiding Principles are to

- Serve the organization's mission
- Maximize the impact of NAGT work on behalf of members and all geoscience educators
- Support initiatives that reflect our mission by local, state, national, and international entities, including professional organizations, non-profits, and government institutions
- Recommend development of position statements or white papers, either as stand-alone NAGT documents or co-authored documents with partner organizations; or recommend endorsements of statements authored wholly by other organizations.
- Author, co-author, or sign letters of support for initiatives (e.g. legislation, public comments, non-profit programs).
- Respond to requests from other organizations, and from NAGT sections and divisions.
- Monitor emergent issues at federal, regional, and state levels

Committee membership is on three-year cycles, and currently consists of the following:

- Catherine Riihimaki, Chair (2019-2022)
- Don Haas
- Mike Phillips (2019-2022)
- Margaret Crowder (2019-2022)
- Frank Granshaw, at large (2019-2022)
- Tamara Ledley, at large (2018-2020)
- Suzanne Metlay, at large (2018-2021)
- Euan Mitchell, at large (2018-2021)
- Dave Mogk, at large (2018-2020)
- David Szymanski (2018-2021)
- Wendi J. W. Williams (2018-2020)

The committee meets bi-monthly on the fourth Friday of that month. During FY 2019-2020, the committee met five times via Zoom. Each meeting had 6-7 members present. Individual members continue their own personal advocacy on issues like climate change education and post-secondary geoscience education. Committee accomplishments for this year include:

- An NAGT webinar co-led by Mike Phillips and Catherine Riihimaki on November 6, 2019, entitled “Advocacy 101: Engaging Policymakers and Promoting the Inclusion of a Geoscience Perspective”
- Revision of the procedure for approving and reviewing position statements, approved by the NAGT Executive Committee on July 28, 2020
- Onset of revising existing NAGT [position statements](#), starting with the statement on Climate Change and the statement on The Importance of Dual Credit and Concurrent Enrollment to the Geosciences.

Our primary goal for FY 2020-2021 is to increase awareness of the Advocacy Committee and NAGT advocacy resources, so that NAGT members are able to be effective geoscience education advocates. This will be done through three efforts:

- Hosting an Earth Educators’ Rendezvous discussion table and recommending relevant keynote speakers
- Writing an article on geoscience education advocacy for In the Trenches
- Hosting two webinars on the position statements that are currently being revised, and then finalizing those revisions.