Neil Miner Award, 2019

The Neil Miner award committee made the 2019 award to Dr. J Bret Bennington, Department of Geology, Environment, Sustainability, Hofstra University.

The Neil Miner Award recognizes an individual “for exceptional contributions to the stimulation of interest in the Earth sciences.” Dr. Bennington’s supporting letters documented a strong record of significant contributions. Colleagues noted his enthusiastic teaching that incorporated cutting-edge pedagogy and “makes every student feel welcomed and inspired.” They described his emphasis on field experiences for students, from local trips to a Long Island marsh to international excursions to locations such as Greece and the Galapagos Islands.

Several colleagues and former students discussed his skills as a mentor and his efforts to help students find and secure their first jobs. Finally, the members of the review committee were impressed by Bret’s efforts to promote geoscience education within the community through organization of a STEM lecture series for the general public and training municipal workers on environmental issues. Dr. E. Christa Farmer, his lead nominator aptly stated, “In sum, Bret is an amazing colleague, a fabulous geoscientist, and an inspiring teacher.”

The Neil Miner award committee was composed of:
David McConnell
Frank Hladky
John Taber
Don Haas
Karen Viskupic