

**NAGT Annual Report**  
**Fall 2020**  
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**Councilor-at-Large, 2018-2021**  
**Report prepared October 19, 2020**  
**Activities since Annual GSA meeting, September 2019**

This has been a busy year for me with NAGT activities. My work generally fell into five areas: facilitator and now chair of the Traveling Workshop Program, chair of the Advocacy Committee, NAGT representative to the AAAS SEA Change Program, primary author of new ethics procedures for NAGT, and co-leader of programs at the Earth Educators' Rendezvous.

*Traveling Workshop Program:* This program was heavily impacted by restrictions related to COVID-19. Despite those restrictions, I was able to co-facilitate two workshops: for University of Tennessee at Chattanooga in early February 2020 and our first virtual Traveling Workshop focused on strengthening departments for the University of Texas at El Paso in mid-September 2020. Both workshops were well received (rating of 8.89/10), and I am particularly proud of the work that David Blockstein and I put into the UTEP workshop, because it was a good demonstration that virtual workshops are feasible. This is critical given that we have a backlog of several workshops that were proposed in 2019-2020 but have not been held because of COVID-19 restrictions.

Aside from co-leading workshops, I participated in several meetings as a member of the TWP Management Team. I also organized an ad hoc committee to investigate creating materials and strategies for virtual workshops. As chair of the TWP starting in August 2020, I look forward to further work on virtual workshops and on infusing anti-racism concepts throughout our TWP materials.

*Advocacy Committee:* I have now served as a member and chair of the Advocacy Committee for a year, and I couldn't be prouder of this group. Our focus has slowly moved from thinking about individual committee member's advocacy to empowering all NAGT members to become effective advocates. To that end, we had three primary activities this year:

- An NAGT webinar co-led by Mike Phillips and me 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.

We hope to continue our “outward-looking” efforts this year through:

- 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.

*AAAS SEA Change Program:* I serve as the NAGT liaison to AAAS. In this role, I have primarily represented NAGT in meetings related to the [SEA Change program](#), an AAAS effort to incentivize good practices by departments and programs related to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). The criteria for accreditation of departments by AAAS are currently being written, with contribution from me on behalf of NAGT. The framework will be an excellent resource for programs interested in assessing their practices and performance through a DEI lens. This is critical for the geosciences, given our terrible track record attracting and supporting geoscientists who identify as People of Color.

*Ethics:* Last year, I was the lead author on new Ethics Policies for NAGT. Those were passed at the GSA Annual Meeting in 2019. This year, I was the lead author on procedures that NAGT will take if there are ethics complaints. Those procedures were approved at the Executive Committee (ExComm) meeting on September 22, 2020.

*Earth Educators’ Rendezvous:* I was proud to attend the first virtual Earth Educators’ Rendezvous (EER) in July 2020, keeping my streak alive of having attended each one. I co-led the Preparing for an Academic Career workshop Monday-Wednesday mornings and led the Implicit Bias round-table discussion on Tuesday afternoon. Thursday and Friday mornings, I participated in the workshop on field sketches. As a leader and a participant, I congratulate all involved in planning and implementing the virtual EER. I thought it went surprisingly well!

*General NAGT work:* Finally, I’m proud to have been an active member of the Executive Committee, attending each meeting of the ExComm and the Council this year. I also represented NAGT at its booth at the GSA and AGU annual meetings. It is a pleasure working with all of my great NAGT colleagues!