Southeastern Section of NAGT

2020 Annual Report

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I. Leadership Updates

Last year our VP, Jen Bauer, left the section to take a new position at the University of Michigan Museum of Paleontology. Jeanette Pirlo, a Ph.D. student studying paleontology at the Florida Museum, as filled the position.

II. SE GSA 2020 – Reston, VA

Typically our annual business meeting for the section is held at the SE GSA meeting, but was cancelled this year when SE GSA was cancelled due to COVID.

III. OEST Awards

We had several OEST nominations submitted through the NAGT website, as well as a number of additional nominations submitted directly to state representatives. We are thrilled to have a winner from almost every state in our section! One of my goals is to more strongly promote the 2021 OEST awards through the creation of a new section position whose main purpose is to promote and organize the entire process in our section. This is a fantastic recognition that NAGT provides to educators in our community that can show, in a small way, how much we value teachers in our community. This year’s winners were:

Alabama: Katy Montgomery Souder

Florida: Zane Hurley

Georgia: R. Scott Harris

Louisiana: Garrah Leshe

Mississippi: Emily Dill

North Carolina: Covey Denton

South Carolina: Heidi Haug

Tennessee: Kari Hughes

This year’s section winner was: Covey Denton

IV. Upcoming Plans

The section will be recruiting new members for our section officers and state representatives to fill vacancies and replace offices whose 2-year terms are expiring. We will also be creating a new Awards Coordinator position to take charge of all things OEST and help manage a new diversity award our section is in the process of creating.

VI. Facebook Page and Section Newsletter

We have not had a section newsletter in a while. This task will be delegated to the section Secretary, which is a position that is currently vacant. To enhance our communication with geoscience educators in our region and in hopes of recruiting new members for SE NAGT, we continue to have an active Facebook page. This means of communication has allowed us to share opportunities and news to our members (and beyond) more frequently. We have 247 followers, up from174 people last year!

<https://www.facebook.com/National-Association-of-Geoscience-Teachers-Southeastern-Section-400556276800591/>.