

April 2021



THE GER EXCHANGE

Promoting high-quality scholarly research in geoscience education.

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March 2021 Researcher Spotlight: Ángel A. García Jr.

This month's GER Spotlight is Dr. Ángel A. García Jr. an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geology and Environmental Science at James Madison University interested in ethnogeology research and place-based education. [Learn more about about Dr. Garcia's GER research in the April Researcher Spotlight!](#)

Featured Publication

From Access to Equity: Community Colleges and the Social Justice Imperative

In the United States, community colleges continue to serve as a critical pathway for populations underserved by selective postsecondary systems. However, the role of community colleges as democratic institutions advancing equitable outcomes is being confronted by contemporary policies which stress private returns and market-based outcomes. In this chapter, authors challenge this trend, (re)casting the role of community colleges as equity-centered institutions for advancing enrollment, persistence, and completion for a diverse set of learners. We explore the foundational evolution of community colleges, including the historical tensions between business interests and democratic principles; summarize key policies that shape community engagement and individual participation; and explore the threat of neoliberal forces for advancing social and economic equity at community colleges. Implications for contemporary theory and recommendations for future research are also presented.

[Baber, L. D., Zamani-Gallaher, E. M., Stevenson, T. N., & Porter, J. \(2019\). From access to equity: Community colleges and the social justice imperative. In *Higher education: Handbook of theory and research* \(pp. 203-240\). Springer, Cham.](#)

GER Division Elections

Nominations for new GER officers due by April 15th

Are you looking to get more involved in the GER Division or know someone who is? Consider submitting your nominations for one of the open officer positions! Self-nominations welcome. We are looking for people to serve in the following positions:

- Vice President
- Graduate Student Liaison
- Media Director

The GER division welcomes and invites self-nominations from geoscience education researchers from a wide range of social identities, backgrounds, and professions (K-12 teachers, postdocs, faculty, staff, and informal educators, and beyond) to help shape the future of the division. Current and former officers note that service on the

community.

For more information about the duties for each position, the officer responsibilities are described in the [GER bylaws](#) and laid out on our annual calendar [here](#). [Current officers](#) would also be happy to talk with you about their position. Submit nominations to [Kelsey Bitting](#) (chair of the Nominations and Election Committee) with 2-3 sentences on why you'd like to be involved by **April 15th**.

GER Session at GSA 2021

Submit an Abstract to the GER Session

Consider submitting an abstract to the "*Making Sense of Methodologies and Theoretical Frameworks in Geoscience Education Research*". More session information will be posted on the [Geological Society of America website](#) in Mid-May and **abstracts open on June 1st**. Abstract must be **submitted by July 20th, 2021 by 11:59 pm Pacific Time**.

Upcoming Conferences

Earth Educator Rendezvous 2021

July 12-16, 2021- Virtual

[Check out the agenda for 2021.](#)

The GER division would like to invite our membership to participate in a writing retreat presented by Peggy McNeal, Towson University on "Writing as a Community of Practice". [Prior registration is required](#) and space is limited.

The GER division will also be hosting a virtual mixer at the EER, and more information will be provided closer to the date of the meeting.

Big 12 Teaching and Learning Conference

Conference Schedule 2021

June 10-11: Virtual conference sessions and workshops via video conferencing solution.

If you have questions about the event, feel free to email kuec_cfaa@ku.edu.

Graduate Student Writing Group

NAGT-GER Division is hosting a weekly writing group on Wednesdays at 3 pm Central Time.

This group's goal is to 1: provide a block of time for students to dedicate towards writing in a social capacity that also helps keep us accountable for our time, and 2: to bring in experts from the GER community to share writing tips and strategies.

If you have any questions, please contact Zo Kreager, the Graduate Student Liaison, at bkreager1@niu.edu.

Call for Nominations for GER Transformation and Collaborations Award

Nomination process is now open!

These awards recognize those who have made significant contributions to the development of and capacity for geoscience education research, including non-GER colleagues (e.g. geophysicists, educational psychologists, education researchers, etc.) who have infused the GER community with new ideas.

Find out more [here](#) and ***make your nominations by June 15th!***

Interested in joining a GER Writing Circle?

Are you interested in joining a small group of writers? Do you want to develop a regular, scheduled, and committed writing practice? Would you like to give and receive feedback (or just generally chat about writing projects) with colleagues?

Currently a small writing circle that is meeting each Friday online from 11 AM to 2 PM ET is open to receiving new members.

The writing circle is a continuation of writing retreats that were held at prior Rendezvous. If interested, please contact Peggy McNeal, pmcneal@towson.edu.

NAGT Geoscience Educator Survey Announcement

Announcing on-line survey opportunity for college Geoscience instructors and professors.

I am a doctoral graduate student at St. Francis Xavier University, Nova Scotia (living and teaching in the U.S), researching how we understand and teach geologic time and related topics (theory of evolution and plate tectonics). Your input is needed.

Please click on the link below, which will take you to the secure Qualtrics Geoscience Educator Survey. Your responses are confidential, as detailed in the on-line Invitation to Participate and Consent Form at the beginning of the survey. If you agree to participate after reading those materials, click “Submit” to continue to the survey.

https://stfx.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bEhoVIRxIA0CPCB

The survey is the first phase of my study. The second phase involves a subset of interested Geoscience instructors and professors working with me on one of three experiential laboratory experiences. These are hands-on, engaging, on-line or face-to-face labs that have been developed to augment teaching geologic time and other foundational geologic topics. I would mentor you through the labs and ask for your feedback from teaching them. If you would like to be included in this part of the research, please provide your name and email where indicated at the end of the survey.

Thank you for your interest. Any questions may be sent to Elisabeth Ervin-Blankenheim at x2018vmt@stfx.ca.

Job Opportunities

- International Association for Geoscience Diversity [Inclusive Geoscience Education and Research Awards](#)
- National Science Foundation [Faculty Early Career Development Program \(CAREER\)](#) Full Proposal Deadline **July 26, 2021**
- National Science Foundation [Research Experiences for Undergraduates](#) Full Proposal Deadline **August 25, 2021**

Grant, Award, and Scholarship Deadlines

- International Association for Geoscience Diversity [Inclusive Geoscience Education and Research Awards](#)
- National Science Foundation [Faculty Early Career Development Program \(CAREER\)](#) Full Proposal Deadline **July 26, 2021**
- National Science Foundation [Research Experiences for Undergraduates](#) Full Proposal Deadline **August 25, 2021**
- [Association for Women Geoscientists IDEA Scholarship](#) deadline **June 30**
- Association for Women Geoscientists [Sand](#) and [Takken](#) Student Research Presentation Travel Awards deadline **August 10**
- Association for Women Geoscientists [Professional Excellence Awards](#) deadline **June 15**
- NAGT [Dorothy Stout Professional Development Awards](#) (for faculty and students at two-year colleges and K-12 teachers) deadline **May 15**
- Geological Society of America and the Geology & Society Division [E-an Zen Fund Geoscience Outreach Grant](#) deadline **July 15**
- NSF [Improving Undergraduate STEM Education: Education and Human Resources](#)
 - Institutional and Community Transformation Capacity-Building- Due August 3, 2021
 - Engaged Student Learning and Institutional and Community Transformation Level 1- Due August 3, 2021

Submit to the GER Exchange

NAGT-GER provides monthly updates on professional opportunities, funding, articles of note, researcher profiles, and other content of interest to our membership. Please consider [contributing items](#) of interest for inclusion in future editions of the Exchange!

For questions, or to join the GER Communications Committee, contact Media Director, [Lauren Neitzke Adamo](#).



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