

FEBRUARY 2021



THE GER EXCHANGE

Promoting high-quality scholarly research in geoscience education.

Featured Article:

[An investigation of accessible and inclusive instructional field practices in US geoscience departments](#)

Authors: Ivan Gabriel Carabajal and Christopher L Atchison

Abstract

This study examines current accessible field-based instructional strategies across geoscience departments in the United States that support students with visual, hearing, and mobility disabilities. A qualitative questionnaire was administered to geoscience instructors from over 160 US geology departments. Outcomes from the data analysis were used to categorize accessible instructional practices into three distinct pedagogical methods: modifications, accommodations, and options for accessible instructional design. Utilizing the lens of critical disability theory, we then investigated how the identified teaching practices varied in inclusion, as some strategies can often be more exclusionary towards individual students with disabilities. Although from a US perspective, the outcomes of this study offer practical suggestions for providing accessible and inclusive field experiences that may inform a global geoscience instructional context.

**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 me at x2018vmt@stfx.ca

Elisabeth Ervin-Blankenheim

Job Opportunities

● **Science or Mathematics Education Research (Open Discipline) Tenure-Track Assistant Professor Position-** The College of Sciences seeks to hire a tenure-track Assistant Professor with expertise in education research in the fields of biology, biochemistry, chemistry, geosciences, mathematics, statistics, or physics beginning Fall 2021.

Applicants should apply via Interfolio at <https://apply.interfolio.com/82740>. Questions about the position may be directed to Search Committee Chair, Joanne Lobato, at jlobato@sdsu.edu. Review of applications will begin on February 12, 2021 and continue until the position is filled.

● **Grant writer/researcher position at Michigan State University** – COVID has

an Academic Specialist – Research to fill the Researcher/Grant Writer position with the Enhanced Digital Learning Initiative (EDLI). This is a full-time 12-month position with an initial appointment period of 2 years. The ideal candidate will be an excellent communicator with outstanding organizational skills, experience conducting educational research and a track record of success in grantmaking.

<https://careers.msu.edu/cw/en-us/job/504160/specialist-researchfixed-term>

Upcoming Conferences and Professional Development Opportunities

Big 12 Teaching and Learning Conference

Conference Schedule 2021

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

Call for Proposals

Presentation proposals will be accepted mid-November until *February 5th, 2021 at 11:59pm*. We will plan to send notifications for accepted proposals in March.

Registration

[Registration details to be announced on website soon.](#)

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

2021 PKAL STEM Leadership Institute

[The Project Kaleidoscope \(PKAL\) STEM Leadership Institute](#) is designed for STEM faculty at the early to middle stages of their careers as educators, researchers, program directors, principal investigators, or department/college-level administrators. The multi-day intensive professional development experience empowers individuals in fully understanding and implementing the theory and practice of navigating the politics of change, addressing inter- and intra-personal conflicts, and re-structuring the institutional systems that limit the capacity for global competitiveness in science and technology.

Multiple Dates

Institute I: July 13-16, 2021

Institute II: July 20-23, 2021

[Application Deadline: March 16, 2021](#)

X-DBER 2021

We are pleased to invite you to X-DBER 2021, a conference exploring themes in discipline-based education research across STEM disciplines. This virtual conference will take place March 1-3, hosted by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

We look forward to fostering cross-disciplinary conversations focused on several core themes: educational tools and interventions; learning and cognitive research; diversity, inclusion, and equity; student experiences and affect; and integrating disciplinary practices. The conference will be free for all participants.

Please check out the conference web page (<https://scimath.unl.edu/x-dber/2021/>). General registration will close on February 21.

Sincerely,

The X-DBER 2021 Organizers

Brian Couch, Joe Dauer, Tomas Helikar, Alena Moon, Grace Panther

Graduate Student Writing Group

NAGT-GER Division would like to host a weekly writing group for graduate students. This one hour a week group will start the week of February 15th. 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 are interested in being part of this group, please fill out the When-is-Good link below with your availability. Please provide your name, and in the comments box, please provide an email address.

Link: <https://whenisgood.net/ihed9db>

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

[Grant, Award, and Scholarship Deadlines](#)

- Association for Women Geoscientists [Chrysalis Scholarship](#) more details posted on the [AWG website soon](#).
- Association for Women Geoscientists [Outstanding Educator Award](#) deadline **April 1, 2021**
- NSF [Improving Undergraduate STEM Education: Education and Human Resources](#)
 - Engaged Student Learning and Institutional and Community Transformation Level 2 and 3- Due December 1, 2020
 - Institutional and Community Transformation Capacity-Building- Due February 2, 2021
 - Engaged Student Learning and Institutional and Community Transformation Level 1- Due February 2, 2021
 - 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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