

THE GER EXCHANGE

“Promoting high quality scholarly research in geoscience education.”

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A Big Start for a New Division

This Summer marked the start of the new NAGT Geoscience Education Research (NAGT-GER) division. We already have over 200 members! Since July, your division officers have been hard at work writing division bylaws, conducting and analyzing a national survey of our members, writing a letter of support for JGE being indexed in ERIC, and developing a logo and banner (see picture on p. 3!). The bylaws were ratified at the 2014 GSA Annual Meeting. Our division exists to promote synergy among our members that will improve the quality of geoscience research and teaching. You told us how we can help you in your responses to our recent national survey.

We had an outstanding response, with 91 people participating in the survey. We hope you will take the time to look over some of these results below and consider with us what this means for us as we move forward. We also hope you'll thoughtfully consider the many opportunities in this newsletter to get involved with the Division and seek funding for your own geoscience education research efforts.

Sincerely,
Laura Lukes, President
Katherine Ryker, Secretary

Nicole LaDue, Vice President
Kim Cheek, Treasurer

Analysis of NAGT GER Division Member Survey, Fall 2014

We had 91 people respond to the Fall 2014 membership survey. The goal of the survey was to identify the membership's expectations of the Division so that we can pursue issues of broad interest. Here we present a summary of the survey results.

Overall, 91 people started and 84 people completed the online survey. Participants were fairly well distributed throughout the NAGT divisions, although most participants came from the Central or Eastern Sections (Fig 1). Most participants are either at 4-year M.S. and/or Ph.D.-granting Institutions (n=39) or Primarily Undergraduate Institutions (n=25), although there were also participants from 2-year colleges (10), K-12 institutions (n=8) and other research institutes (n=2).

The survey included several Likert-style questions to identify what our members hope to receive from their participation in the GER Division as well as the types of professional development they need at this stage in their career. Participants ranked *opportunities to network with other geoscience education researchers* and *news and updates about funding opportunities available to the GER community* the highest out of a variety of activities for the Division to address. More than half the survey participants (n>42) expressed interest in professional development to *prepare grants or proposals*, mentorship from experienced geoscience education researchers, and opportunities to strengthen their skills at *research design, mixed methods techniques, qualitative and quantitative techniques*.

Keep an eye out for more details from the survey in future GER communications. We hope you might consider joining the Long Range Planning Committee to help the Division meet the needs of our membership.

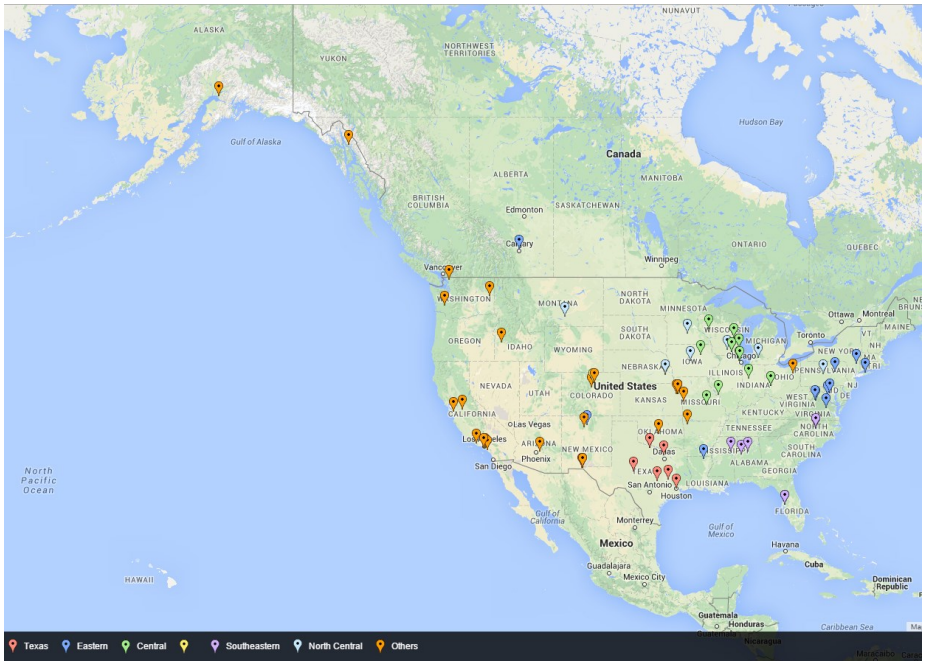


Figure 1. Distribution map of respondents

Opportunities to Get Involved with the Division

The NAGT-GER is seeking members and chairs for the following committees. If you are interested in learning more, please contact the listed officer.

- **Communications Committee:** Help us spread the word about the GER division and geoscience education research to our members and external groups and individuals. We need people who will create or oversee a variety of ways to share our message, like a Division website, listserv, e-newsletter, presence on social media, etc. Looking to build your resume and get involved? In addition to committee members, we are also seeking a Director of Communications to lead the Communications Committee. For more information, contact Secretary Katherine Ryker (kryker@emich.edu).
- **Long-Range Planning Committee:** Are you interested in helping to shape the long-range vision of the Division and its mission? If so, the Long-Range Planning Committee needs you! This committee shall identify and develop resources to achieve the Division’s mission, including identifying and soliciting potential sustaining members. The GER Vice President is the Chair of this committee, so please contact Nicole LaDue (nladue@niu.edu) to help shape the future of the GER Division!
- **Conference Committee:** We need people who are willing to organize collaborative activities at conferences and meetings like those of GSA, AGU, NAGT, NARST, or their sections. This committee will work with the NAGT leadership to coordinate activities like endorsing sessions. For more information, contact President Laura Lukes (llukes@gmu.edu)

GER Connect

Have an opportunity you'd like to share with the GER community? E-mail Secretary Katherine Ryker (kryker@emich.edu) to get your information featured here.

- The first annual Earth Educators' Rendezvous is being held July 13-17, 2015 at the University of Colorado, Boulder. The Rendezvous is an opportunity to "capitalize on the experience of your colleagues at a variety of workshops, present and discuss your own findings, and network with others engaged in improving undergraduate Earth education". To learn more, [check out the Rendezvous website](#).
- The [Geoscience Teachers in Parks \(GTIP\) Program](#), a "collaborative effort between NAGT and the National Park Service to provide professional development for K-12 teachers of geoscience", is looking for someone to help with their program evaluation. Interested, or know someone who might be? Contact Scott Beason, Park Geologist at Mount Rainer National Park (Scott_Beason@nps.gov).
- Geosphere has announced a call for papers for a special issue on Human Dimensions in Geoscience. They invite "anyone with high quality research that sits at the interface between geoscience and social science, including education, to submit to this special issue." For more information, [check out the full call for papers here](#).
- Registration is open for CUR Dialogues 2015: Climbing the Ladder to Funding Success: Diverse Sources, Diverse Pathways, being held in Arlington, VA February 19-21. To see the draft program or register, [check out the Dialogues website](#).
- Ready to renew your NAGT (and division) membership, or need to update your information? [Head over to the NAGT website for more](#).



Division Officers at the GSA Annual Meeting in Vancouver, October 2014. From left to right: Vice President Nicole LaDue, Treasurer Kim Cheek, President Laura Lukes and Secretary Katherine Ryker

Funding Opportunities

The NAGT-GER has identified several funding opportunities which may be of interest to its members. If you know of additional opportunities that should be shared with the GER community, e-mail kryker@emich.edu to get your information featured here.

Improving Undergraduate STEM Education (IUSE:EHR) Solicitation 14-588

"The Improving Undergraduate STEM Education (IUSE) program invites proposals that address immediate challenges and opportunities that are facing undergraduate STEM education, as well as those that anticipate new structures (e.g. organizational changes, new methods for certification or credentialing, course re-conception, cyberlearning, etc.) and new functions of the undergraduate learning and teaching enterprise."

[Find out more here.](#) Full proposal due 1/13/2015

Improving Undergraduate STEM Education: Pathways into Geoscience (IUSE: GEOPATHS) Solicitation 15-526

"The IUSE: GEOPATHS solicitation features two funding Tracks: (1) Engaging students in the geosciences through extra-curricular experiences and training activities (GEOPATHS-EXTRA), and (2) Improving pathways into the geosciences through institutional collaborations and transfer (GEOPATHS-IMPACT)."

[Find out more here.](#) Letter of Intent (required) due 1/5/2015 or 8/14/2015; Full Proposal due 3/16/2015 or 10/5/2015.

Cultivating Cultures for Ethical STEM (CCE STEM) Solicitation 14-546

"Cultivating Cultures for Ethical STEM (CCE STEM) funds research projects that identify factors that are efficacious in the formation of ethical STEM researchers in all the fields of science and engineering that NSF supports."

[Find out more here.](#) Full Proposal due 2/17/2014.

Tribal Colleges and Universities Program (TCUP) Solicitation 14-572

"The Tribal Colleges and Universities Program (TCUP) provides awards to Tribal Colleges and Universities, Alaska Native-serving institutions, and Native Hawaiian-serving institutions to promote high quality science (including sociology, psychology, anthropology, economics, statistics, and other social and behavioral science as well as natural science and education disciplines), technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education, research, and outreach."

[Find out more here.](#)

Partnerships for Geoscience Education 3/16/2015

Instructional Capacity Excellence in TCUP Institutions 9/1/2015

Targeted STEM Infusion Projects 9/16/2015

Developmental and Learning Sciences (DLS) PD 08-1698

"DLS supports fundamental research that increases our understanding of cognitive, linguistic, social, cultural, and biological processes related to children's and adolescents' development and learning. Research supported by this program will add to our basic knowledge of how people learn and the underlying developmental processes that support learning, social functioning, and productive lives as members of society."

[Find out more here.](#) Full proposal due 7/15/2015

Historically Black College and Universities-Undergraduate Program (HBCU-UP) Solicitation 14-513

"HBCU-UP provides awards to develop, implement, and study evidence-based innovative models and approaches for improving the preparation and success of HBCU undergraduate students so that they may pursue STEM graduate programs and/or careers."

[Find out more here.](#) Full proposal due 1/26/2015

Research on the Science and Technology Enterprise: Statistics and Surveys- R&D, US S & T competitiveness, STEM Education, S&T workforce solicitation 15-521

"NCSES welcomes efforts by the research community to use NCSES data for research on the science and technology enterprise, to develop improved survey methodologies for NCSES surveys, to create and improve indicators of S&T activities and resources, and strengthen methodologies to analyze and disseminate S&T statistical data."

[Find out more here.](#) Full proposal due 2/18/2015

Looking Forward

Interested in serving as a division officer?
Keep an eye out for the Spring NAGT-GER
newsletter with elected position
nominations!



Contact Information for Division Officers

President Laura Lukes: llukes@gmu.edu
Vice President Nicole LaDue: nladue@niu.edu
Secretary Katherine Ryker: kryker@emich.edu
Treasurer Kim Cheek: k.cheek@unf.edu