

## Topics in Geoscience Research

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Conference on “Bringing Research in Learning to the Geosciences”

I’ve read the questions to be addressed at the conference, and I’m sure they will lead to very interesting and informative discussions. I would ask that we consider how we can bring research on learning to the preparation of pre-service teachers and professional development to in-service classroom educators. Since K-12 teachers play such an important role in developing a scientifically literate population it’s critical that we consider how best to bring research on learning to present the perspectives of Earth science and the Earth system to them.

I would also suggest that we consider two questions specifically dealing with on-line K-12 teacher professional development. These two questions are specifically focused on K-12 teachers, but the first is also apropos to on-line instruction in general:

- What is the most effective way to structure on-line professional development courses for K-12 teachers?
- How do K-12 teacher understandings of the Earth as a system translate into effective learning for K-12 students, integrating aspects of Physical, Life, and Earth/Space science?