

## Rowing in the same direction: a faculty team builds a strong geoscience program

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## ABSTRACT

Each institution has its own priorities and needs, however, the single most important factor in building our program has been the judicious recruitment, mentoring and retention of faculty who share a common purpose of building a strong, student-centered department. Such people will not be satisfied with the status quo, and will work to improve their courses, advance curricular innovations, and share their successes and failures with their colleagues. Moreover, student centered faculty will endeavor to provide students with opportunities to learn via field trips, assisting in teaching courses, and via class-based and independent research projects. These become "team" efforts. Faculty active in curricular improvement, research, and broadly defined service instill their values and work ethic in students who become successful themselves. However, in order to become an essential member of the campus community, the program must pay for itself and the successes of faculty, students, and alumni must be publicized. This latter point is often critical in keeping the campus community and those beyond campus informed about our discipline, our program, and their value to our society.

