



Annual Report for FY2026

Submitted by Brendan Hanger, Councilor-at-Large

Executive summary

This was the 2nd year of my term as a Councilor-at-Large on the Executive Committee, and I have developed a much deeper understanding of the role and the mission of NAGT over this time. It was also my third year as a member of the Professional Development Committee, and I look forward to succeeding Karen Viskupic as Chair starting in October 2026. I was able to play a role in the development of the NAGT budget in both committees and was very happy with the progress we are making to ensure NAGT is on a fiscally sustainable pathway. The Earth Educators Rendezvous in Columbia, SC was a huge success, and I was very happy to participate in the Congaree National Park fieldtrip, multiple workshops and social events as well as catching up with everyone after two years. 2026 was a milestone year professionally celebrating my promotion to Teaching Associate Professor and appointment as Undergraduate Program Director for Geological Engineering in the newly formed School of Earth, Space & Planets at Colorado School of Mines. I am excited for NAGT to continue to grow in 2027 and I will be part of the Membership Committee alongside chairing the Professional Development Committee in my final year as a Councilor-at-Large.

Detailed report

Goals for NAGT work over the past year

My goals within NAGT for 2026 included continuing to be active on ExComm and working towards an even deeper understanding of the PD program, as I have agreed to take over as chair of the committee in the next fiscal year (2027). I am looked forward to attending EER in July and helping lead a workshop on leadership opportunities for NAGT.

Progress towards goals: Participation and achievements as an officer of NAGT

This year I have served on the Professional Development Committee, partially as a representative of the Career Prep workshop and as the incoming chair for FY27 onwards. In this role I assisted with the budget planning for the PD program, which is a major portion of the NAGT budget, as well as thinking about professional development activities for FY2027, which is an off year for EER. I also attended EER in Columbia, SC and helped lead the session of leadership opportunities within NAGT. I have also served as the section's liaison, providing a link between the regional sections and the ExComm, and helped with the onboarding of new section officers. Additionally, I have been actively promoting NAGT and EER to my colleagues and my broader network.

Progress towards goals: Other achievements and work relevant to NAGT

My primary professional achievement this year was promotion to Teaching Associate Professor at Colorado School of Mines, and my past work with NAGT, EER and Teach the Earth playing a significant role this promotion. Additionally, I was part of a team that helped reorganize our earth science and engineering programs leading to the formation of two new schools (Earth, Space &



Planets and Minerals & Subsurface Energy). I am now based in the School of Earth, Space & Planets and have also been appointed as the Undergraduate Program Director for Geological Engineering, as well as undertaking a major redevelopment of our introductory geoscience labs, and many of these will be open-access and ultimately hosted on Teach the Earth. I have also been working with Kyle Fredrick, the Teach the Earth editor to test a new review process that will provide a shorter timeframe between submission and review.

Goals for NAGT work in the next year

Over the next year my goal with NAGT will be the leadership of the Professional Development Committee, as I am the incoming chair. This year will be an opportunity to strengthen our online programming, including the Course Design and Preparing for an Academic Career workshops, to better serve our members in a year when there is no Earth Educators Rendezvous. It will also mark the start of a new planning cycle for the 2028 EER and I am excited to play a major role in that process, as I was last part of that in 2020. Additionally, I am also joining the Membership Committee this year, which will be another opportunity to help improve our membership and promote the value of NAGT to all potential members. I am especially interested in making sure we have programming and benefits that are attractive to faculty at four-year colleges and universities who see geoscience teaching as a part of their role, but not necessarily the focus of their job, I think this group provides a significant opportunity for growth. I am also excited see the roll out of new review process for Teach the Earth and hope it will provide more value for members with shorter timeframe for review after submission.