



Annual Report

2022

Mike Phillips

Secretary/Treasurer

Goals for NAGT work over the past year

We planned to work with the Advocacy Committee to redevelop the Advocacy website to be more up-to-date and user friendly, to review and update the existing positions statements, to work on meeting location guidelines, and to share advocacy ideas and information via the NAGT newsletter and In The Trenches.

Membership

The Advocacy Committee added two new members (Cory Forbes and Brendan Anderson) to replace members rotating off (Catherine Riihimaki and Frank Granshaw). Continuing members are: Mike Phillips (chair), Don Haas, Suzanne Metlay, Margaret Crowder, Wendi Williams, Joel Singley

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

Advocacy: Catherine Riihimaki led the development of a new Advocacy page on the NAGT web site; that new page is now live. The Advocacy Committee has been reviewing and developing updates to the NAGT's Position Statements. Revisions of two of the statements (K-12 Education and Dual Credit) have been completed, and we are beginning the process of evaluating the statement on Evolution. (Revision of the Climate Change statement was completed in 2021.) A proposal to develop a statement on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion was approved by the Exec Comm at the September 2022 meeting. In July, the American Geophysical Union (AGU) announced a return to in-person Congressional Visit Days (CVD); three members of the Advocacy Committee were accepted of which two (Cory Forbes and I) were able to participate. I was partnered with a soil science professor/President of the Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) from Indiana and the SSSA Government Relations Manager who acted as our facilitator; we met with staff from the offices of the Senators from Illinois and Indiana with whom we discussed the importance of Federal funding for research and to support educators.

Progress towards goals: Personal achievements and work relevant to NAGT Advocacy

I continue to serve on the Faculty Advisory Council to the Illinois Board of Higher Education where I advocate for both science and 2YC issues. In the past year, we discussed issues including the cost of textbooks, the increasing role of dual credit courses, and the college readiness of our student population. I have continued to work with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and a local legislator on the development of a fossil park near my college; I was able to bring NAGT member and Mississippi State University Geology Professor Renee Clary to the site to meet with the park superintendent and discuss her work and research on



fossil parks around the U.S. Dr. Clary offered to help us as we move forward with plans for the site.

Goals for NAGT Advocacy work in the next year

The **Advocacy** Committee may develop a new leave behind sheet for inclusion on our web site; members will be able to print and share it when they engage in advocacy. We will continue to work on statement revisions; all four existing statements should be up-to-date and the new statement on DEI should all be complete by the Fall of 2023. When the revisions are complete, the committee should develop a list of topics on which to develop new statements or endorse the statements of partner organizations. We would like NAGT to explore becoming a partner with AGU on their CVDs; the September 2022 CVD included the Geological Society of America, the American Meteorological Society, and the Soil Science Society of America as partners. the committee thinks participation would benefit NAGT members through the training and experience and the AGU by partnering educators with researchers when discussing the benefits of Federal programs that support both.