



## Annual Report of the Advocacy Committee for FY25

Submitted by Mike Phillips, Committee Chair

**Committee members:** Mike Phillips (chair), Don Haas, Wendi J. W. Williams, Suzanne Metlay, Brendan Anderson, Guang Zeng, Tara Lepore, Daniel Hummer

### Executive summary

The Advocacy Committee developed new materials for members to use, including new position statements on the Value of Undergraduate Geoscience and Responsibility to Teach Earth Sciences and a web page to assist members who wish to call Congress. We are nearing the completion of new leave behind sheet that describes NAGT, the revision of the Teaching Evolution position statement, and the new JEDI position statement. Committee members shared numerous concerns regarding Federal science and grants with members of Congress (House and Senate) and their staffs.

### Detailed report

#### Goals for committee work and progress towards them

- Develop a new leave behind sheet that describes NAGT for inclusion on our web site; this is ready for final approval by the Executive Committee
- Complete revision of the Teaching Evolution position statement revisions; this is ready for final approval by the Executive Committee
- Complete the new JEDI position statement; this is in the final revision stage and should be complete by January 2026.
- Gain Council approval of the new Value of Undergraduate Geoscience and Responsibility to Teach Earth Sciences position statements; both received Council approval in January 2025.
- Develop a new footer for the Statement template; this is complete and in place.
- The committee will continue to identify 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 Congressional Visits Days (CVDs) and Local Science Partners (LSP) Program; in addition, AGU policy staff would like more educators to participate, and 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. Three Committee members participated in AGU's CVDs (in-person and virtually) and several are LSPs.
- The Committee should assist the NAGT in making rapid responses to concerns that impact the NAGT, its members, and geoscience education broadly.
  - A web page was added to assist members who wish to call Congress; the page was added to the NAGT web site in February and shared with the membership.
  - Significant concerns in the past year included the inactivation of the USGS-NAGT Summer Field Internship Program and the loss of NSF funding for the Early Career Workshop; the Advocacy Chair was able to share both concerns with several members of Congress (House and Senate). Information from NAGT's Executive Director regarding the USGS-NAGT Summer Field Internships was included in Congressman Bill Foster's remarks to the U.S. House of



Representatives and is now part of the Congressional Record.  
(<https://youtu.be/WLd5Gda1ZIU?si=e3MnVITz1zwdbakq>)

#### Goals and planned committee work in the next year and beyond

- Obtain Executive Committee approval for the new leave behind sheet for inclusion on our web site.
- Obtain Executive Committee and Council approval for the Teaching Evolution position statement revisions.
- Complete final revisions and obtain Executive Committee and Council approval for the new JEDI position statement.
- Lead a workshop on Geoscience Education Advocacy at the 2026 Earth Educators Rendezvous.
- Continue to assist the NAGT in making rapid responses to concerns that impact the NAGT, its members, and geoscience education broadly.
- Develop a tool kit/starting point for school boards/school board prospects
- Develop a "how to" page to assist members who wish to interact with state legislators
- Strengthen advocacy ties between NAGT and AGU, especially on their Congressional Visits Days (CVDs) and Local Science Partners (LSP) Program. We should also consider other organizations to partner with on Advocacy issues.