Consensus Statement Regarding Access and Inclusion of Individuals with Diverse Abilities
Washington, DC
14 January 2015

The geosciences are central to understanding the interaction between the earth system and today’s modern society. As a science vital to the human endeavor, it is important that we represent and serve all the members of society, including those living with disabilities. Furthermore, it is clear that the geosciences face challenges in securing the workforce necessary to meet the needs of the coming decades. In order to increase talent and diversity in the geoscience workforce, more inclusive learning and professional development opportunities must be developed that enable all geoscientists to advance academically and professionally.

The member societies of the American Geosciences Institute (AGI) are committed to affording educational and career opportunities to all geoscientists through proactive efforts that engage individuals with disabilities. Therefore, we as the representative leadership of geoscientific professional societies and organizations, embrace, empower, engage and sustain the participation, representation and retention of individuals living with disabilities within all sectors of the geoscience community.

As an inclusive geoscience community, supportive of the needs of all current and future geoscientists, we assert that we will continue to move forward together to:

- Develop and promote all learning environments, including classroom, laboratory and field, to be conducive to preparing and developing skills of all geoscientists regardless of physical, sensory or cognitive abilities.
- Increase the participation and ensure retention of geoscientists who live with disabilities in academic communities, our professional organizations and the workforce.
- Promote accessible pathways for students with disabilities to transition into geoscience careers that maximize their unique perspectives, competencies and abilities.
- Ensure full participation and integration in employment and professional development opportunities to continue life-long growth and development as a geoscientist.

Signed:
(Now list societies who agree)