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## Valuing Professional Contributions to Geoscience Public Policy and Education

**Position Statement.** The purpose of the Geological Society of America “is the promotion of the science of geology.” The society actively encourages its members to involve themselves professionally in issues of public policy and education. The Geological Society of America believes that specific efforts by geoscientists, directed towards the enhancement of earth science in the public policy affairs and education arenas, may constitute valuable scholarship and professional activity. Such scholarly activity may include publications and presentations on geology and public policy, active participation in land use and management policy development, efforts on behalf of substantive curricular reform, publications and presentations on pedagogy and curriculum innovations, and service-learning initiatives. Recognized community service and professional activity may include service on community, regional, or national policy and planning commissions, and service on education committees.

The Geological Society of America believes the science of geology, the perception of the geosciences by the public, and the professional stature of individual geoscientists benefit from the time, effort, talent, and scholarly activity invested by geoscientists in public policy and education. As such, the Geological Society of America recommends that geoscientists in academia, government service, and in the private sector should receive formal recognition for such efforts from their performance, reappointment, promotion, and tenure review committees and their supervisors. The Geological Society of America also encourages mission-appropriate support, by means of appropriate reassigned time or travel assistance when possible, to those individual geoscientists engaged in substantive scholarly and professional activity on issues of public policy and education.

### ABOUT THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

The Geological Society of America, founded in 1888, is a scientific society with over 21,000 members from academia, government, and industry in more than 90 countries. Through its meetings, publications, and programs, GSA enhances the professional growth of its members and promotes the geosciences in the service of humankind. GSA encourages cooperative research among earth, life, planetary, and social scientists, fosters public dialogue on geoscience issues, and supports all levels of earth science education. Inquiries about the GSA or this position statement should be directed to GSA’s Director for Geoscience Policy, Dr. Craig M. Schiffries, at +1-202-669-0466 or [cschiffries@geosociety.org](mailto:cschiffries@geosociety.org).