

Highlighted Workshop

Saturday, 10:15-11:15 AM

Planning a Career Path after Graduate School & the Journey of a Supervisory Environmental Scientist

Presenters Mary Hubbard (MSU), Melissa Passes (BIA)



Dr. Mary Hubbard. As a geologist, Dr. Mary Hubbard, currently serves as the Department Head for Earth Sciences at Montana State University. She received her PhD from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1988. Her academic research has focused on mountain belt formation around the world. Starting with dissertation research in the Himalayas of Nepal, she continued to pursue questions in tectonics and structural geology in the Pakistani Himalayas, the Western Alps of Europe, the Southern Alps of New Zealand, the Mauritanides of Senegal, and the Appalachians and Rocky Mountains of North America among other places. She started her faculty career at the University of Maine, following a NATO post-doctoral fellowship at the ETH in Zurich, Switzerland. Dr. Hubbard moved to Kansas State University in 1996 where she served as a professor and then department head. An opportunity to serve as the Dean of the College of Science brought Dr. Hubbard to Utah State University in 2007. With a passion for internationalization in higher education, she served at Utah State as the Vice Provost for Global Engagement from 2009-2013 before returning to her role as professor. In 2015, she moved to her current position at MSU. In her free time, Dr. Hubbard enjoys outdoor recreation, photography, music, travel, and the arts.



Dr. Hubbard will provide an overview of possible career paths in the sciences and tips for how graduate students can explore options and plan ahead.

Mrs. Melissa Passes. Since 2011, Melissa Passes has held the position of Bureau of Indian Affairs Branch Chief of Environmental Services, where her main duties include the supervision of the Environmental, Cultural and Safety programs in the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Rocky Mountain Region. From 2001 to 2011, Mrs. Passes served as the Natural Resource Specialist for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in the Montana Billings Field Office. From 1999-2000, she worked as a water hydrologist technician with U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) at Billings Montana. Mrs. Passes received Associates of Arts degrees in Environmental Sciences and Natural Resources and Business Administration from Little Big Horn College, a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies from Montana State University – Billings with a minor in Native American Studies, and a Master's of Science in Land Resource and Environmental Sciences from Montana State University – Bozeman. Melissa is married to Brenden and has four children, Ashlee (18), Katelynn (17), Brodie (11) and Drake (5). Mrs. Passes is an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation of Arizona. Although she is an enrolled member of the Navajo nation she was raised on the Crow Reservation since she was 6 years old.



Mrs. Passes will share her journey from graduate studies along the career path that led to her current position. She will provide insights into working for federal agencies, like the BIA, BLM, and USGS.

This is an AGEP - T: Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate – Transformation under HRD grant # 1431773. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.