



GeoSPACE: Building community for students in a hybrid, multi-modal field course designed for inclusion and access

Geoscience field courses that explicitly recruit students from underserved identities have a critical responsibility to create inclusive communities in which to learn and connect. In this talk, Dr. Anita Marshall and Yesenia Arroyo will share approaches to building inclusive communities with examples from **GeoSPACE**, an inclusive field course for students with disabilities and other marginalized identities. The hybrid and accessible format of the field course provides a unique setting in which to explore how students who are traditionally excluded from field experiences build community and a sense of belonging, and what instructors can do to encourage those connections.

RSVP: https://bit.ly/BFE_RSVP



Dr. Anita Marshall is a geoscience education researcher with interests in disability inclusion, academic and social engagement in STEM, and the cultural aspects of geoscience. She is a Lecturer in the Department of Geological Sciences at the University of Florida, Gainesville, and the Executive Director of the International Association for Geoscience Diversity (theIAGD.org), a non-profit with the mission to improve inclusion in the geoscience for people with disabilities. Dr. Marshall also leads the GeoSPACE program. Her work is informed by her experiences as a disabled geoscientist, a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, and her own non-traditional academic path. Find Anita on Twitter @BakingSodaVolc.



Yesenia Arroyo (they/she) is a geologist and program manager for GeoSPACE. Initially a college dropout, Yesenia returned to the University of Florida to complete a Bachelor's degree in Geology in 2021 and hopes to pursue an advanced degree in science communication and planetary geology to study volcanism across the solar system. Yesenia's nontraditional academic trajectory has allowed them to work in various places, like the Orlando Science Center and Kennedy Space Center. As a result, they are vocal about their shortcomings, hoping to destigmatize the conversation around failure in academia and create space for those with similar nonlinear paths. Find them on Twitter @_vividreams or at senarroyo.com.