

Virginia Peterson

What is your leadership experience in CUR and outside of CUR?

Within CUR:

Geosciences Division leadership: Chair (2017-2020); Vice Chair (2020-2021); Secretary (2015-2017)

Outside CUR:

CUR representative to Steering committee for NSF-funded Geosciences ASCEND RCN grant to advance cultural change toward a more diverse and inclusive discipline (2021-2025)

National Association of Geoscience Teachers (NAGT) Traveling Workshop Program “workshop facilitator (2014-present) and member of leadership team (2018-2020)

Grand Valley State University Geology Department Head (2010-2016)

Geological Society of America Education Committee Chair: 2009-2010, 2006-2007, Vice chair: 2008-2009, 2005-2006.

Why are you interested in serving on the NVC and how does your past experience with CUR and or other organizations support your role on NVC?

I feel that I bring a breadth of perspective to the NVC and its important role in vetting potential leaders of the organization. I have a long history with CUR (in my 5th term as GeoCUR councilor and recently served as Geosciences chair. Undergraduate research has been at the center of my identity as a geoscience educator and the CUR community and resources have been central to that identity. I am very committed to a more diverse and inclusive CUR that builds on the strengths of its member community. I am engaged in several formal and informal discussions, particularly within the geoscience community (e.g. URGE “Unlearning Racism in Geosciences <https://urgeoscience.org/>; Geosciences ASCEND RCN steering committee) aimed at actions that help move my communities toward greater diversity, equity and inclusiveness. As a workshop leader for the last 7 years for the NAGT Travelling Workshop Program (TWP), I have facilitated difficult conversations among department faculty seeking change and have had the opportunity to work with a wide variety of departments and institutions. I also bring perspective from tenured positions at two different public PUI institutions and 6 years as a department head. I look forward to the opportunity to serve CUR on this committee.

How will you represent and advance CUR-wide interests (please reference the CUR Mission and Strategic Plan)?

If elected, I will be committed to representing the interests of CUR and all divisions in considering nominations for CUR offices and to respectfully consider and evaluate multiple perspectives. I will be mindful of the mission of CUR to support and promote high-quality mentored undergraduate research and the strategic goals of the organization.