

# Closed Captioning and Pinning Sign Language Interpreters

## 1. For Closed Captioning

Click “... More”

## 2. Select “Language and Speech”

## 3. Turn on live captions

## 4. Pinning ASL Interpreter

Find Interpreter Name:

“Dionna Griffin”

“Hannah Drexler”

Click “...” next to name

Select “Pin for me”



U.S. Department of the Interior  
U.S. Geological Survey

# 2024 USGS HONOR AWARDS CEREMONY

LIVE VIRTUAL EVENT

[www.usgs.gov/honor-awards](http://www.usgs.gov/honor-awards)





IN MEMORY OF  
**OUR FELLOW USGS FAMILY MEMBERS**

**Edward C. Brown**  
Volcano Science Center

**Timothy D. Counihan**  
Western Fisheries  
Research Center

**Marvin I. Harris**  
Alaska Science Center

**Tamara S. Lamb-Ghene**  
Office of Human Capital

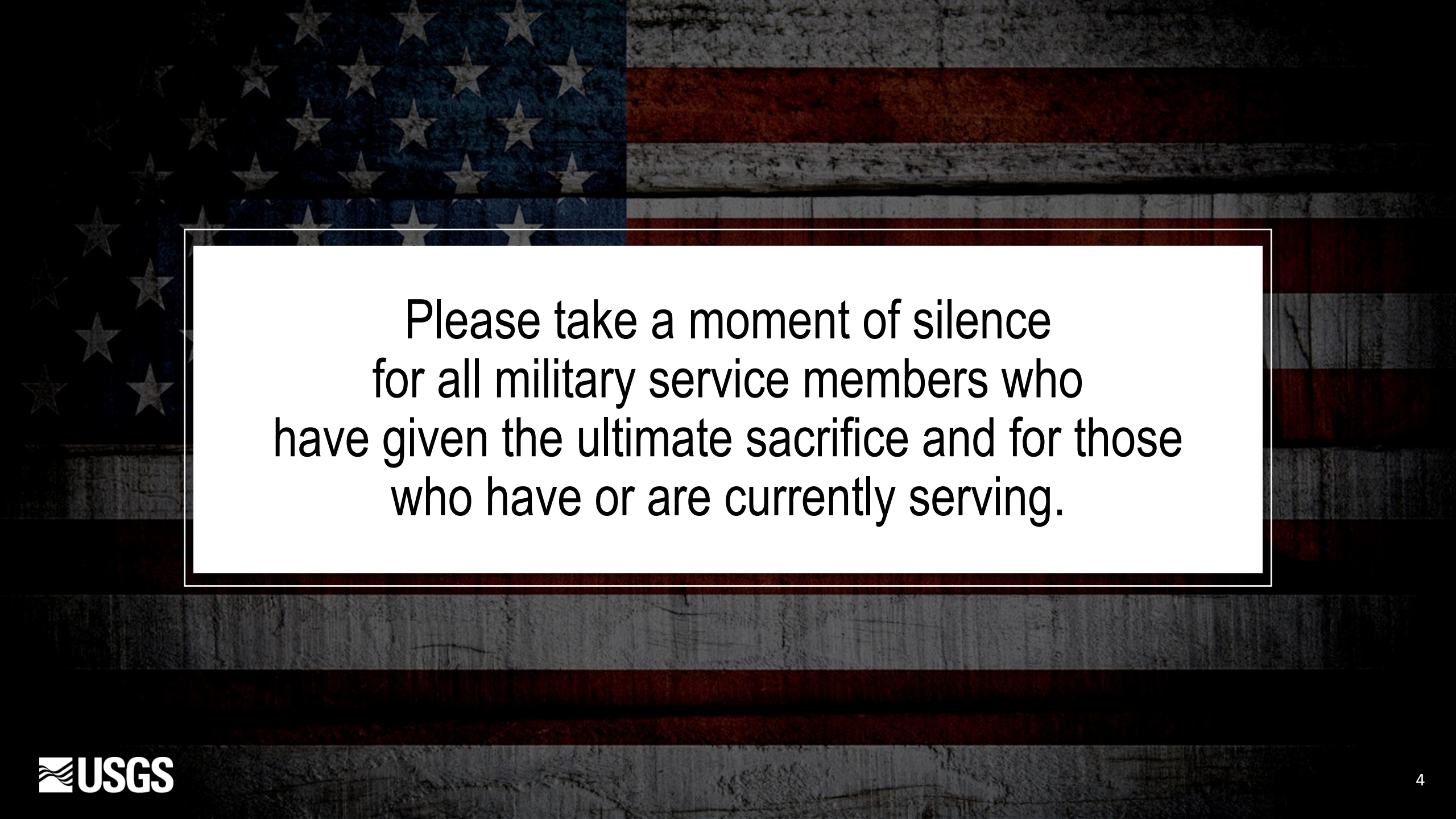
**Kristin S. Linsey**  
New York Water  
Science Center

**Reynaldo T. Salang**  
Office of Accounting and  
Financial Management

**Theodore A. Schultz**  
National Geospatial Technical  
Operations Center

**Zenon C. Valin**  
Geology, Minerals,  
Energy & Geophysics  
Science Center



The background of the slide is a dark, textured American flag. The stars are visible in the upper left, and the stripes run horizontally across the rest of the image. The colors are muted, appearing as dark blues, greys, and browns.

Please take a moment of silence  
for all military service members who  
have given the ultimate sacrifice and for those  
who have or are currently serving.



# 2024 PRESIDENTIAL RANK AWARDS

Presidential Rank Awards are the most prestigious honor in the federal career civil service. They are given annually by the President to recognize and celebrate career Senior Executives (SES) and senior career employees — Senior Level (SL) and Scientific or Professional (ST) — for sustained and exceptional achievements that have an impact at the national or international level. Recipients of this award consistently demonstrate the integrity, industry, and commitment that signify excellence in public service.

It is a great honor to recognize the following ST rank scientists as this year's Presidential Rank Awardees.



# 2024 PRESIDENTIAL RANK AWARD



## Dr. Tim Collett

*Central Energy Resource Science Center*

Dr. Tim Collett is a ST Research Geologist and a renowned expert on natural gas hydrate systems and energy resource issues. Tim's research has fundamentally advanced the understanding of gas hydrate reservoir dynamics and the factors controlling the accumulation of gas hydrates in both marine and permafrost settings. Tim produced the first assessment of technically recoverable gas hydrate resources and one of the first lifecycle assessments for gas hydrates. He is a leading world expert on gas hydrate drilling operations and pressure coring, which is a specialized method for retrieving sediment samples to prevent hydrate degradation. His drilling experience made him a key member of the USGS team that contributed to the Deepwater Horizon response.



# 2024 PRESIDENTIAL RANK AWARD



## Dr. Ruth Harris

*Earthquake Science Center*

Dr. Ruth Harris is an internationally recognized seismologist who has made fundamental contributions that elucidate earthquake rupture dynamics and improve earthquake shaking forecasts. Her research, which involves numerical models that integrate field and laboratory data, has demonstrated how ruptures on one fault can jump to another fault, and she originated the concept of a stress shadow, an area of the Earth's crust where earthquakes are suppressed. Ruth has made key contributions to understanding creeping faults and led USGS teams that have tested the science underpinning earthquake probability reports and aftershock forecasts for both the U.S. and some other countries.

# DOI AWARD RECOGNITION



# Distinguished Service Award

The Distinguished Service Award (DSA) is the highest and most prestigious Honor Award of the Department of the Interior. Recipients must have demonstrated extremely significant long-term contributions to Departmental programs and missions.





# Dr. Rex L. Baum

*Geologic Hazards Science Center*

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Dr. Rex Baum is recognized for his outstanding research contributions and nearly 40 years of service to the USGS in the field of landslide science, and for his leadership role within the Landslide Hazards Program. Rex's contributions towards understanding landslide mechanisms and developing mathematical models for quantitative characterization of landslide processes have greatly advanced the field and contributed to mitigation of landslide related losses across the country from Seattle, Washington, to Puerto Rico.



# Dr. Michael L. Blanpied

## *Earthquake Hazards Program*

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Dr. Michael Blanpied is recognized for his exemplary leadership of the Earthquake Hazards Program Hazard Assessment and Research activities, and fundamental discoveries in earthquake fault mechanics. For two decades, Mike has shown dedication to the USGS mission through oversight of the high-impact National Seismic Hazard Model and the portfolio of research on earthquake physics, occurrence, and effects, leading to critical contributions like the USGS Operational Aftershock Forecasting product. Prior to his many leadership roles, Mike was a USGS research scientist whose fundamental discoveries on the effects of fluids on fault mechanics continue to place him as a visionary and internationally recognized expert in the field. Mike has also been an impactful mentor to many USGS earthquake research scientists.



# Michael J. Magyar

*National Minerals Information Center*

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Michael Magyar is recognized for his outstanding leadership and contributions to the National Minerals Information Center (NMIC). During his 42-year career, Michael succeeded in various capacities with the U.S. Bureau of Mines and NMIC, including successfully creating permanent solutions for the remediation of hazardous mining and mineral processing. Michael is widely respected for his sound guidance and thoughtful leadership as well as for his management initiatives and stellar performance, which set the standard for ongoing success.





# Dr. Peter B. McMahon

*Colorado Water Science Center*

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Dr. Peter McMahon is recognized for his outstanding science contributions to the USGS in the field of groundwater systems and water quality. Peter's scientific achievements substantially contributed to understanding the complex effects of geochemical conditions on groundwater contaminants. His biogeochemical research has been applied to multiple scales, land-use settings, and classes of groundwater contaminants within the scientific community and beyond.



# Dr. Dee Williams

*Alaska Region*

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Dr. Dee Williams is recognized for his outstanding science leadership contributions to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and the USGS for promoting actionable scientific information across disciplinary, institutional, and cultural boundaries throughout his 22-year career as a civil servant. His work encompassed a wide range of physical, biological, and social research regarding potential impacts from energy sector development, natural hazards, and ongoing environmental change.

# Meritorious Service Awards

The Meritorious Service Award (MSA) is the second highest Honor Award of the Department of the Interior.

Recipients must have made exceptional continuing contributions to DOI or bureau mission accomplishments.



# Meritorious Service Award

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*Dr. Kenneth Belitz*

California Water Science Center



Dr. Kenneth Belitz is recognized for his decades of leadership in groundwater science. His deep understanding of groundwater flow led to development of a systematic approach to groundwater-quality assessment that is scalable locally to nationally. Kenneth successfully applied his approach to California through the state's Groundwater Ambient Monitoring Assessment Program and then to the entire nation through the USGS National Water-Quality Assessment Program.



# Meritorious Service Award

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*Nicole G. Bogeajis*

Office of the Associate Chief Information Officer



Nicole Bogeajis is recognized for her outstanding contributions to the USGS in the field of information technology and cybersecurity, and for her exceptional leadership in the Information Security Office. Through relationship building and a strong determination to support the USGS science community, Nicole has been able to balance cybersecurity requirements with the need to provide science for a changing world.



# Meritorious Service Award

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*Carolyn Donlin*

Science Publishing Network



Carolyn Donlin, Chief of the Moffett Field Publishing Service Center in the Office of Communications and Publishing, is recognized for her outstanding service to USGS authors and the many consumers of USGS scientific information products. Her dedication to upholding and promoting USGS quality standards and her unwavering commitment to her colleagues have enabled the USGS to fulfill its mission of producing beautiful and impactful scientific and technical publications for the nation.



# Meritorious Service Award

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*Ariel T. Doumbouya*  
National Geospatial Program



Ariel Doumbouya is recognized for her outstanding science contributions to the USGS in the field of cartography, and for her selfless leadership of the Dynamic Mapping project. The project has created a new method for the public to access USGS geospatial data to dynamically generate topographic maps anywhere in the United States and its territories.



# Meritorious Service Award

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*Steven W. Holder*

Office of the Associate Chief Information Officer



Steven W. Holder is an exemplary telecommunications specialist with expertise in Private Branch Exchange (PBX) system procurements and upgrades for more than 80 USGS locations. He has a deep understanding of voice services and PBX technology, critical to the establishment of the USGS Enterprise PBX that currently supports 21 USGS and three DOI locations. He identified billing issues with the Enterprise Infrastructure Solutions Voice contract, resulting in 35% cost savings for DOI. His dedication to delivering solutions allowed the USGS to invest more time and resources into its mission.



# Meritorious Service Award

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*Dr. Kishor Jaiswal*  
Earthquake Hazards Program



Dr. Kishor Jaiswal with the Geologic Hazards Science Center is recognized for his outstanding scientific contributions in the field of earthquake risk assessment. Kishor is the lead developer for the Prompt Assessment of Global Earthquakes for Response system, which provides invaluable post-earthquake situational awareness for earthquake responders. He also led the production of the Estimated Annual Earthquake Losses for the United States, which assess seismic risk. Kishor's contributions address the DOI's goal of serving communities by building a more resilient nation.



# Meritorious Service Award

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*Carol L. Sanchez*

Science Publishing Network



Carol Sanchez is recognized for more than 36 years of dedicated science delivery at the USGS. Carol started as an editor, became the Sacramento Publishing Science Center Chief, and for the last three years has been a regional manager in the Science Publishing Network. Among her many contributions include her leadership in revitalizing the Virtual Empowering Authors training and mentoring a community of practice for editorial assistants.



# Meritorious Service Award

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*Dr. R. Blaine McCleskey*

Water Resources Mission Area



Dr. Blaine McCleskey is recognized for his outstanding contributions to advancing the understanding of inorganic redox processes and the fate and transport of solutes in natural waters, and for improving measurements of water quality and chemistry to mitigate hazards from both contaminants and volcanic activity.



# Superior Service Award (SSA)

The Superior Service Award (SSA) recognizes the employee's accomplishment of a particularly difficult or important mission operation or assignment/project in a manner that reflects favorably on the individual or the bureau; development of a new procedure or process that results in substantially increased productivity, efficiency or economy of operation; innovations of significance which further bureau programs; or for any other aspect of superior performance related to assigned duties and deemed to be deserving of special recognition.



# 2024 Superior Service Awards

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**Katherine Barnhart**  
*Landslide Hazards Program*

**Eva M. Bauer**  
*Office of the Associate Chief  
Information Officer*

**Jennifer L. Boyea**  
*Office of the Associate Chief  
Information Officer*

**Richard W. Briggs**  
*Geologic Hazards Science Center*

**Katharine G. Dahm**  
*Rocky Mountain Region*

**David M. Evetts**  
*Idaho Water Science Center*

**Laura E. Flight**  
*Water Resources Mission Area*

**Charles R. Gunn**  
*Office of the Associate Chief  
Information Officer*

**Robert G. Hollis**  
*Idaho Water Science Center*

**Amy C. Kamp**  
*Office of the Associate Chief  
Information Officer*



# 2024 Superior Service Awards

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**Peter J. Kelly**  
*Volcano Science Center*

**Jerry Kwong**  
*Office of the Associate Chief  
Information Officer*

**Brian McCallum**  
*Water Resources Mission Area*

**Richard H. Medina**  
*Office of the Associate Chief  
Information Officer*

**Mercer Parker**  
*Florence Bascom  
Geoscience Center*

**Adam T. Ringler**  
*Earthquake Hazards Program*

**Whittney Spivey**  
*Florence Bascom  
Geoscience Center*

**Dennis M. Staley**  
*Volcano Science Center*

**Crista L. Straub**  
*Core Science Systems Mission Area*

**Timothy D. Straub**  
*Water Resources Mission Area*

**Holly Weyers**  
*Southeast Region*





# EXEMPLARY ACT AWARDS

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The Exemplary Act Award is a Department of the Interior honor award and recognizes an employee who attempts to save the life of another, or for a private citizen who attempts to save the life of a departmental employee serving in the line of duty or any other person while on property owned by or entrusted to the Department, when risk to their own life is not an issue.





## Jerry Little *Oklahoma-Texas Water Science Center* Exemplary Act Award (Individual)

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On January 22, 2024, Jerry Little saved a woman whose car was submerged during flash flooding in San Antonio, Texas. Jerry was part of a USGS team taking a flood measurement on Leon Creek. While the team was working, a car floated up against the bridge abutment where the team was, and they realized there was someone trapped inside. Jerry remained calm and approached the car, where it was clear that the woman inside was in distress and still buckled into her seatbelt. Jerry's quick actions and clear thinking under pressure enabled him to pull the woman from her car before it was submerged a few minutes later. His calmness and decisive actions in this difficult situation no doubt kept her from serious harm and most likely saved her life.





# Great Lakes Science Center

## Exemplary Act Award (Group)

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Maddie Giordano, Shelby Eagan, Megan Lewan, and Dr. Mary Anne Evans from the Great Lakes Science Center saved the life of a center employee who suffered a cardiac arrest event. They quickly recognized the emergency, called 911, and put their first aid and CPR training into action until emergency medical services arrived on the scene with an AED. Thankfully, the employee has made a full recovery. For their decisive and immediate action in saving a life, Maddie, Shelby, Megan, and Mary Anne are receiving an Exemplary Act Award.





**Roman L. Brittenham**  
*Office of the Associate Chief  
Information Officer*



**Kevan P. Kamibayashi**  
*Hawaiian Volcano Observatory*



**John E. Parks**  
*Office of the Associate Chief  
Information Officer*



**Alan T. Wiser**  
*Office of the Associate Chief  
Information Officer*

# Hawaii Volcanoes National Park Response Exemplary Act Award (Group)

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Roman Brittenham, Kevan Kamibayashi, John Parks, and Alan Wiser are recognized for their heroic acts in attempting to save a life. On May 15, 2024, a group of five USGS employees were in the field at the summit of Kīlauea Volcano within Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. As the group walked back to their vehicle, one of the employees collapsed without warning and was unresponsive, and these men immediately began rendering aid to their fallen colleague. Although the employee did not survive, these individuals acted with the highest degree of fortitude, determination, and composure and did everything they could to try to save their colleague's life. They are commended for their rapid application of first-responder skills.



# USGS EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP AWARD

This honor award recognizes the outstanding acts, services, or achievements of individuals or teams that exemplify and support the science mission of the USGS and its goal of developing a leadership-centered culture throughout the bureau.





# Dr. Katharine Dahm

*Rocky Mountain Region*

## Excellence in Leadership Award

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As Deputy Regional Director for Operations with the Rocky Mountain Region, Dr. Katharine Dahm is being recognized for successfully leading the Actionable and Strategic Integrated Science and Technology initiative for the Colorado River Basin.





# Dr. Johanna Blake

*New Mexico Water Science Center*

## Early Career Excellence in Leadership Award

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As Research Hydrologist, Dr. Johanna Blake excels in interpersonal skills and fosters cooperative relationships while utilizing creative problem-solving to meet project goals. With expertise in environmental geochemistry, especially in legacy uranium-mine issues and post-wildfire geochemistry, she leads impactful studies, including a post-fire investigation of the Hermit Peak-Calf Canyon wildfire.





# Dr. Amy Gartman

*Pacific Coastal and Marine Science Center*

## Early Career Excellence in Leadership Award

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Dr. Amy Gartman is recognized for her exceptional creativity, technical leadership, and scientific judgment, which position her as an internationally recognized authority on marine minerals. Amy has forged crucial collaborations with federal partners, mentored many earlier career scientists, and advised the State Department on the potential impacts of deep sea mining.



# Unit Award for Excellence of Service

This honor award recognizes a group of employees who have worked together as a unit to perform a service above and beyond what is considered superior in support of the science mission of the USGS.



# 2024 Unit Award

## for Excellence of Service

### Office of the Associate Chief Information Officer Enterprise Patching (ePatching) Team

This team distinguishes itself through its exemplary performance in providing guidance and support to the USGS's scientific community, effectively protecting the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of data and information. They demonstrate technical excellence, covering the implementation, interpretation, and operation of numerous federal security configuration requirements. Over the past year, the ePatching Team has pursued compliance with federal information security technical mandates by proactively offering system patching services to all USGS IT specialists, saving both time and funding. The ePatching Team has also successfully coordinated and managed enterprise common security controls used as part of the Annual Assurance Statements for Internal Controls over IT.



**Gerald (Jerry) Carpenter**



**Robert Hollis**



**Amy Kamp**



**Jerry Kwong**



**Peter Lindstrom**



**Phil McCall**



**Aaron Mills**



**Greg Shank**



**Tom Van Heel**



# 2024 Unit Award

## for Excellence of Service

### Laboratory Inventory and Information Tracking Working Group

This group is recognized for its exceptional contributions toward advancing the discoverability of laboratory information and addressing critical information tracking needs within the USGS. This dedicated team stepped up to the Laboratory Advisory Board's charge by crafting recommendations that will 1) make laboratory capability information more expansive and accessible, and 2) provide laboratories with a flexible, supported solution for tracking samples, ultimately improving information discoverability and traceability.



**Amy Bern**

**LaDonna Choate**

**Julie Dietze**

**James English**

**Brooke Fait**

**Delaney Falcon**

**Jennifer Fike**

**Javin Hatcherian**

**Christina Kellogg**

**Tricia Lincoln**

**Stephen Low**

**Adam Mumford**

**Kate Norton**

**Jake Ogorek**

**John Parks**

**Stephen Spear**

**Craig Stricker**

**Josh Sussman**

**Sarah Stetson**

**Pam Swarzenski**

**Tracy Yager**



# 2024 Unit Award

## for Excellence of Service

### USGS Law of the Sea Project

The Law of the Sea project team worked over nearly 20 years to collect data and provide analyses, and expertise required to delineate the United States Extended Continental Shelf (U.S. ECS). The team worked in collaboration with the Departments of State and Commerce to develop the scientific products required to define this offshore boundary. Among their many achievements, the team carried out 10 research cruises to collect the geophysical data necessary to identify the extent of the U.S. ECS. They developed seismic models needed to support the delineation and advanced the understanding of the regional framework geology and surficial geologic processes pertinent to geologic hazards and resources in this massive offshore area.



Matthew Arsenault



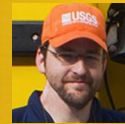
Wayne E. Baldwin



Ginger Barth



Brian Busczkowski



Jason D. Chaytor



Jonathan Childs  
(posthumous)



VeeAnn A. Cross



William W. Danforth



Brian D. Edwards



David S. Foster



Patrick E. Hart



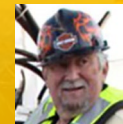
Deborah R. Hutchinson



Nathaniel C. Miller



Eric Moore



Thomas F. O'Brien  
(posthumous)



Danel S. Scheirer



Ray W. Sliter



Peter Triezenberg



Florence L. Wong



# 2024 Unit Award

## for Excellence of Service

### New York Water Science Center Soil and Low-Ionic Strength Laboratory Team

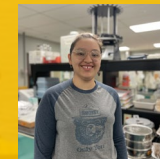
The team is recognized for their unwavering commitment to the highest level of quality assurance at the USGS New York Water Science Center Soil and Low-Ionic Strength Laboratory. Their concerted effort to improve already robust laboratory quality assurance has positively influenced laboratory operations inside and outside the bureau.



**Pamela Davis**



**Noel Deyette**



**Inara Ilse**



**Hannah Ingleston**



**Tricia Lincoln**



**Joshua Rosen**



**Michael Thier**



# 2024 Unit Award

## for Excellence of Service

### National Seismic Hazard Model Team

The National Seismic Hazard Model team includes scientists from the Geologic Hazards Science Center, Earthquake Science Center, Volcano Science Center, Alaska Science Center, and Earthquake Hazards Program. This team is recognized for their exceptional service and research contributions that led to the successful development and publication of the 2023 U.S. National Seismic Hazard Model, which for the first time spans all 50 states. The team's collective efforts will have a profound and lasting impact on the practice of earthquake hazard and risk mitigation across the Nation.

Brad T. Aagaard  
Jason M. Altekruze  
Adrian M. Bender  
Michael L. Blanpied  
Oliver S. Boyd  
Richard W. Briggs  
Brandon S. Clayton  
Christopher B. DuRoss  
Edward H. Field  
Demi L. Girot  
Peter J. Haeussler  
Alexandra E. Hatem  
Kirstie L. Haynie  
Julie A. Herrick  
Kishor S. Jaiswal  
Zachary A. Kortum  
Andrea L. Llenos  
Nicolas Luco  
Andrew J. Makdisi  
Devin F. McPhillips  
Andrew J. Michael  
Kevin R. Milner  
Morgan P. Moschetti

Morgan T. Page  
Mark D. Petersen  
Fred F. Pollitz  
Peter M. Powers  
Sanaz Rezaeian  
Justin L. Rubinstein  
Kenneth S. Rukstales  
Brian R. Shiro  
Allison M. Shumway  
N. Simon Kwong  
James A. Smith  
William J. Stephenson  
Eric M. Thompson  
Jessica A. Thompson Jobe  
Erin A. Wirth  
Kyle B. Withers  
Robert C. Witter  
Yuehua Zeng

Emeritus scientists:  
Arthur D. Frankel  
Charles S. Mueller  
Paul G. Okubo



# 2024 Unit Award

## for Excellence of Service

### **Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) Working Group, Laboratory Advisory Board**

This group is recognized for its exceptional contributions toward establishing a USGS IBC and identifying a review process to evaluate the risks associated with work involving biological agents. The dedicated working group stepped up to the Laboratory Advisory Board's charge and worked tirelessly to develop recommendations that would best serve the unique needs of the USGS. These advancements will strengthen the integrity of laboratory science within the USGS, ensure that the bureau complies with all relevant regulations and policies, and demonstrate the USGS's continued commitment to maintaining the public trust in our science.

**Amie Brady**

**Melanie Culver**

**Don Dennerline**

**Cynthia Duffield**

**Carrie Givens**

**Shamara Gough**

**Jeff Hall**

**Susan Knowles**

**Molly McLaughlin**

**Scott Lowe**

**Chris Merkes**

**Clint Morgan**

**Chris Ottinger**

**Maureen Purcell**

**Katie Richgels**

**Stephen Spear**

**Erin Stelzer**

**Aaron Stern**

**Sarah Stetson**

**Alicia Torregrosa**

**Guela Vazquez-Meves**



# 2024 Unit Award

## for Excellence of Service

### USGS Contributions to the Fifth National Climate Assessment (NCA5)

These scientists served on the NCA5 Federal Steering Committee, contributed as chapter or lead authors, provided technical contributions, and/or translated the report into Spanish. Their efforts ensured that the report incorporated the best available science on climate and global change impacts, epitomizing the USGS role of providing objective science to serve the nation. These contributors have continued to support the NCA5 process through their participation in webinars, their assistance with outreach materials and chapter summaries, and their work with the Office of Communications and Publishing to highlight the USGS contributions to the report.



Kristin Alkins  
Alfredo Aretxabaleta  
Patrick Barnard  
Vanessa Von Biela  
John Bradford  
Shawn Carter  
Aparna Bamzai-Dodson  
Amy East  
Carolyn Enquist  
Li Erikson  
Jeff Falke  
Lucas Fortini  
Eric Grossman  
Glenn Guntenspergen  
Mari Vaughn-Johnson  
Heather Kerkerling  
Julie Kiang

Dennis LaPointe  
Olivia LeDee  
Erika Lentz  
Jeremy Littell  
Susan Aragon-Long  
Katherine (Kate) Malpeli  
Sasha Reed  
Karen Ryberg  
Rudy Schuster  
Benjamin Sleeter  
Hilary Stockdon  
Curt Storlazzi  
Kathryn Thomas  
Ryan Toohey  
Paul Wagner  
George Xian



# Environmental Achievement Award

The USGS Environmental Achievement Award recognizes employees, teams, and outside partners who have attained exceptional natural resource conservation and environmental sustainability achievements. These awards represent efforts that go above and beyond the person or team's regular, expected performance.



# Great Lakes Science Center

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Environmental  
Achievement Award

*Category: “Climate  
Champion (Mitigation)”*



## **“International Laboratory Freezer Challenge” ‘Cold Storage’ Best Practices that reduced electricity demand and greenhouse gas emissions**

The Great Lakes Science Center team demonstrated exemplary service and diligence in recognizing the high energy-intensive laboratory freezers utilized by multiple Great Lakes Science Center locations and then engaged staff and management by participating in the International Laboratory Freezer Challenge – coordinated by My Green Lab and the International Institute for Sustainable Laboratories.

**Lori Evrard**

**Mark Vinson**

**Owen Gorman**

**Nathaniel DeVore**

**Katarzyna Przybyla-  
Kelly**

**Lynn Benes**

**Patricia Dieter**

**Steve Farha**

**Caleb Geister**

**Benjamin Leonhardt**

**Ann Ropp**

**Katie Anweiler**

**Amanda Ackiss**

**Megan Lewan**

**Madeleine Giordano**

**Shelby Eagan**

**Margret Chriscinske**

**Jaquelyn Craig**



# USGS Earth Day Team

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Environmental  
Achievement Award

Category:  
*“Sustainable Innovation”*



## “Invest in Our Planet” Earth Day Virtual Expo with Sustainability Study Modules and Speaker Series on @theCore

USGS Earth Day Team demonstrated exemplary teamwork and diligence in coordinating the 2023 ‘Invest in Our Planet USGS Earth Day 2023 Virtual Expo’ event. This innovative Expo reached both in person and remote staff while assisting the bureau in achieving goals of the Federal Sustainability Plan including a key goal of fostering a culture of sustainability and climate action in the federal workforce.

**Margret Chriscinske**

**Jaquelyn Craig**

**Paul Kallus**

**Jordan Sizemore**

**Kristina Sussman**

**Shannon Gutierrez**

**Michelle Fishburne**

**Sam Droege**

**Kristin Byrd**



# USGS DIVERSITY AWARD

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The Diversity Award recognizes supervisors, non-supervisors, and groups or teams whose actions demonstrate the value of diversity in the USGS and help make the USGS an employer of choice.





# Nicole Herman-Mercer

*Southwest Climate Adaptation Science Center*

## Individual Diversity Award

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Nicole Herman-Mercer is recognized for exceptional leadership in advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in the scientific work of the USGS and DOI through expanding participatory research with Indigenous groups. Nicole has focused for more than fifteen years on the co-production of knowledge utilizing community-based and participatory methods in the Arctic to form a better understanding of environmental change and impacts on the populations of this region.





# Dr. Charles W. Mandeville

*Alaska Region*

## Individual Diversity Award

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Charles Mandeville is recognized for his outstanding leadership of the USGS Diversity and Inclusion Council, which he elevated to a highly organized, effective team dedicated to advancing the bureau's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) Strategic Plan. His contributions include rechartering the council, strengthening teamwork and accountability, and enhancing engagement with minority-serving institutions to boost recruitment diversity. Charles has been instrumental in creating resources like a DEIA Community of Practice SharePoint site, an MSI outreach dashboard, and a DEIA training library. His efforts have ensured executive-level support and recognition.





# Dr. Elizabeth Powers

*Alaska Region*

## Individual Diversity Award

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Dr. Elizabeth Powers, Science Coordinator, demonstrated outstanding leadership as the interim Tribal Liaison. Elizabeth led several initiatives, enhanced Tribal communication tools, led regional training, and worked with the Office of Tribal Relations to clarify engagement guidelines for the USGS's mission areas. Her efforts included supporting Tribal compact requests, facilitating Tribal Resilience meetings, and advocating for Indigenous inclusion in research and grant proposals. Elizabeth's contributions have profoundly advanced the region's Tribal engagement and set a high standard for the program's future.





# Durelle Smith

*Alaska Region*

## Individual Diversity Award

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Durelle Smith is recognized for her extraordinary commitment, creativity, and diligence in compelling the establishment of a new hiring authority applicable to the University of Alaska's Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program (ANSEP). ANSEP is a pipeline program with a proven record for recruiting and graduating Alaska Native students with science and engineering degrees.





**Alfredo Aretxabaleta**  
*Office of Science Quality  
and Integrity*



**Laura Hempel**  
*Office of Science Quality and Integrity*

# Dr. Alfredo Aretxabaleta

# Dr. Laura Hempel

## Group Diversity Award

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Alfredo Aretxabaleta and Laura Hempel are recognized for their exceptional leadership in advancing the bureau's diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) initiatives. As the secretariat for the Workplace Equity, Engagement, and Excellence Council, they created an impactful approach to implement the 2023-2028 DEIA Strategic Plan. Their prioritization rubric led to notable progress in diversifying job recruitment, strengthening engagement with minority-serving institutions, and fostering a DEIA-informed culture. Their collaborative and visionary efforts have been instrumental to the USGS's DEIA mission, earning them deep respect and admiration from colleagues.





**Tina Roberts-Ashby**  
*Geology, Energy and Minerals  
Science Center (GEM)*



**Eleanor Snow**  
*Office of Science Quality and Integrity*

# Dr. Tina Roberts-Ashby Dr. Eleanor Snow Group Diversity Award

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Tina Roberts-Ashby and Eleanor Snow are recognized for their outstanding leadership in advancing the initial phase of the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) Strategic Plan. They led efforts to implement the highest priority actions from the plan, focusing on workforce gaps, workplace improvements, and science outcomes for underserved communities. They successfully motivated teams, tracked progress, and ensured executive-level accountability, embodying inclusive leadership. Their effective communication raised the profile of these achievements, inspiring broader recognition of DEIA progress in the earth sciences.





**Eleanor Snow**  
*Office of Science Quality  
and Integrity*



**Jennifer Miselis**  
*St. Petersburg Coastal &  
Marine Science Center*



**Bill Waite**  
*Woods Hole  
Coastal & Marine  
Science Center*

# Dr. Eleanor Snow Dr. Jennifer Miselis Dr. Bill Waite Group Diversity Award

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Eleanor Snow, Jennifer Miselis, and Bill Waite are recognized for their leadership in the Unlearning Racism in Geoscience initiative within the USGS, culminating in a report on how to make the workforce more diverse and inclusive. Among the largest U.S. geoscience employers, the USGS wields significant community influence, and this report is intended to demonstrate leadership and accountability for affecting meaningful change.



# RUFUS D. CATCHINGS DIVERSITY OUTREACH AWARD

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The Rufus D. Catchings Diversity Outreach Award recognizes outstanding collaboration between a USGS employee or team and a partnering organization to share and encourage interest in science with minority or underserved students.





# Dr. Diana L. Restrepo-Osorio

*Water Resources Mission Area Integrated Information  
Dissemination Division*

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Dr. Restrepo-Osorio is recognized for her leadership, commitment, and ongoing roles in outreach to underserved communities. Diana is known for her ongoing work to make a difference in the lives of under-resourced students and families. She connects with students by sharing her insights on career development, career paths, social vulnerability, and environmental justice.





# Eugene M. Shoemaker Award

## Lifetime Achievement in Communications

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The Eugene M. Shoemaker Award for Lifetime Achievement in Communications is presented annually to a scientist who has over their career created excitement and enthusiasm for science among non-scientists by using effective communication skills. Each year, a broad-based committee that includes past Lifetime Achievement award recipients reviews the nominees and selects the winner.





# Dr. Michael Poland

## *Cascades Volcano Observatory*

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Dr. Michael Poland is recognized for his ardent focus on outreach and commitment to creating enthusiasm among non-scientists. Mike's outreach includes highly viewed monthly Yellowstone Volcano Updates on YouTube, weekly communications products that are re-published throughout the Yellowstone region, and annual reports distributed in the park and online. Mike is featured in multiple documentaries and is sought out by science writers for comments on new publications.

Mike's commitment to communicating is rooted in his conviction that we need to do more than science by showing how we use the science to help the public understand how the Earth works, as well as how the science can inform personal decisions.





# Eugene M. Shoemaker Award

## Awards for Communications Product Excellence

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This honor award recognizes information products that effectively convey complex scientific concepts and discoveries to the American public. Categories include Audio/Visual, Graphic, Large Print, Small Print, and Webpage/Website.



# Audio/Visual

## Eugene M. Shoemaker Award for Communications Excellence

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### *Landsat: Celebrating 50 Years (Extended Edition)*

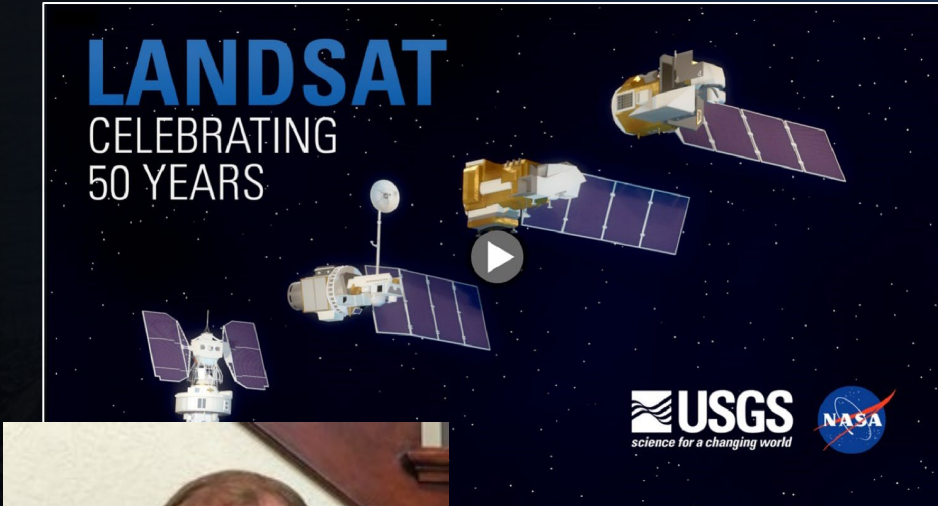
Timothy A. Glynn

Outside contributors:

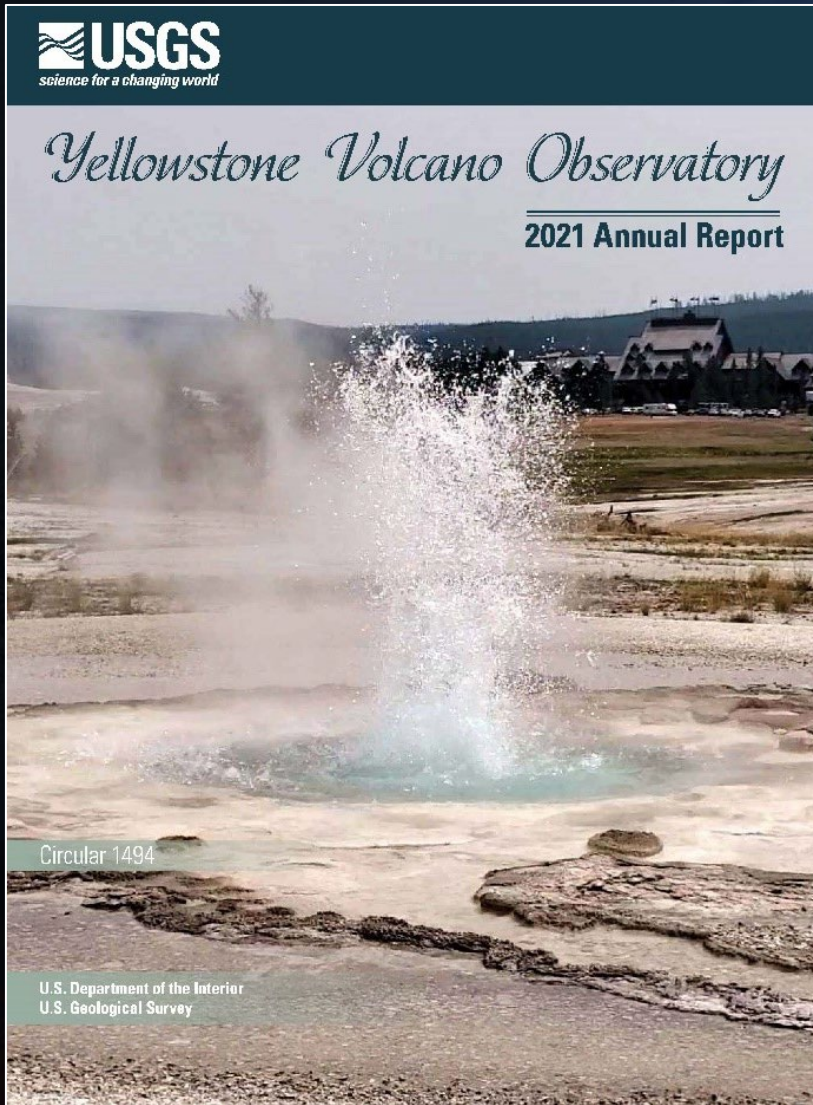
Brian Hauge, USGS contractor

Jon Christopherson, USGS contractor

Peggy Connot, USGS contractor







# Large Print (more than 10-page publication)

## Eugene M. Shoemaker Award for Communications Excellence

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### *Yellowstone Volcano Observatory 2021 Annual Report*



Michael Poland

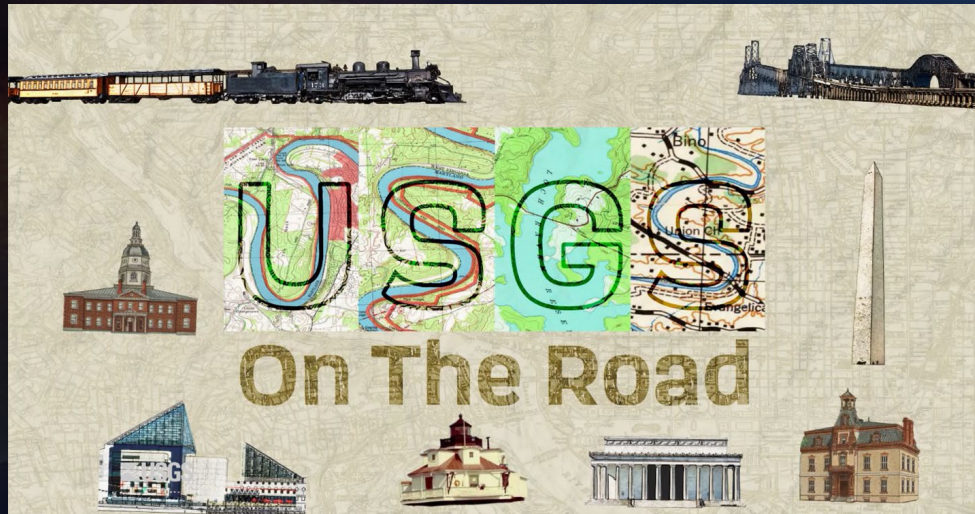


Monica Erdman



Cory D. Hurd





# Social Media

Eugene M. Shoemaker Award  
for Communications Excellence

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## ***USGS On the Road – Season 1***

Neel Hodgkinson

Tristan Mohs

David Fisher

Zachary J. Clifton

Ashley Ryan

Charles Walker

Nicholas Giro

Marina Metes

Leah Staub

Caitlyn Dugan, former USGS

Kelly McVicker



# Webpage/Website

Eugene M. Shoemaker Award  
for Communications Excellence

*Liquefaction and Sea-Level Rise: Sensitivity to  
liquefaction hazards from sea-level rise in the San  
Francisco Bay area, California*

Travis Poitras, former USGS

Alex Grant

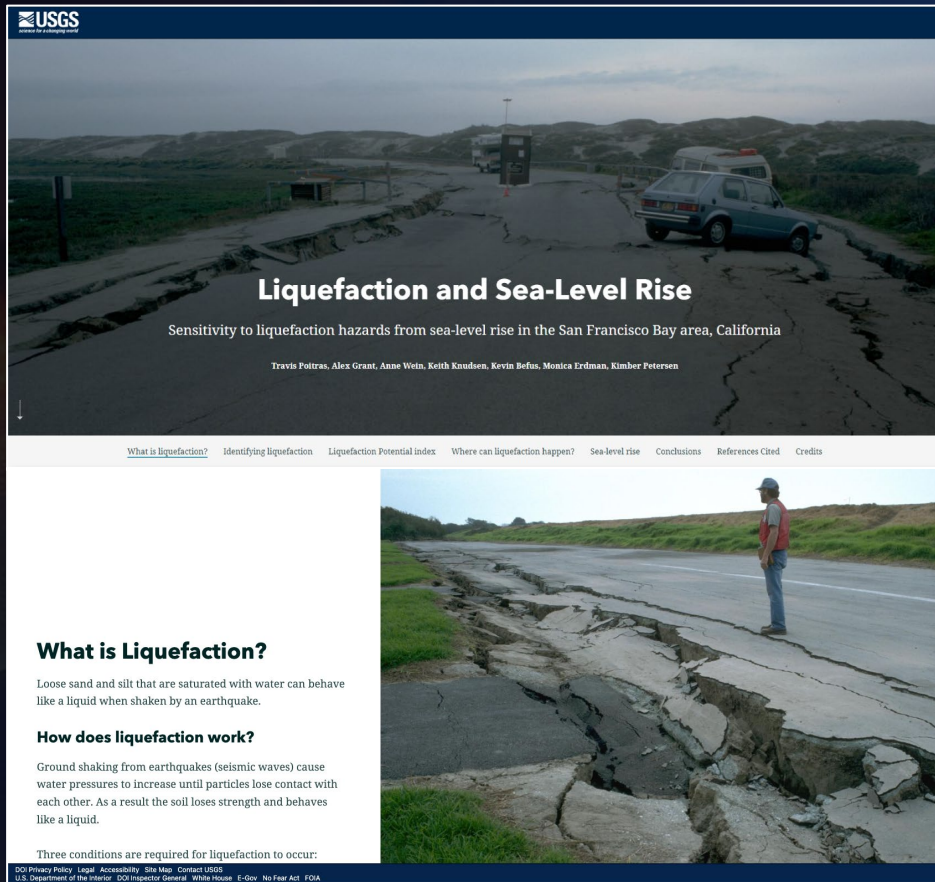
Anne Wein

Keith L. Knudsen

Kevin Befus, University of Arkansas

Monica Erdman

Kimber Petersen







# USGS JAMES R. BALSLEY, JR. TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AWARDS

The James R. Balsley, Jr., Technology Transfer Awards are named for a USGS geophysicist and Assistant Director for Research from 1972 to 1979. Dr. Balsley was an expert in geomagnetism and an innovator who led the way in applying research to practical problems.

This award recognizes USGS scientific, engineering, technical, and science support employees for their inventions or other outstanding scientific or technological contributions of value to the United States due to their commercial applications.

This year, we recognize three winners in three different categories.



JAMES R. BALSLEY, JR.

## Outstanding Science Support in Technology Transfer Award

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*California Water Science Center*

*Brian Pellerin*

*Angela Hansen*

*Diana Oros*

*Ann Lee*

*Jacob Fleck*

This team contributed to a patented invention titled “Multiparameter Standard Solution for Water-Quality Analysis.” The team conceptualized, developed, and tested a multiparameter standard solution for water-quality sensor calibration that is safer and easier to use in the field, has a long shelf-life, and saves time and money for water analysis. This innovation has resulted in a simple, fast, and efficient method to verify calibrations in the field for multiple sensors simultaneously and enable sensor calibrations to be standardized across the bureau.



JAMES R. BALSLEY, JR.  
**Excellence in  
Technology  
Transfer Award**

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## Peter Kelly

*Cascades Volcano Observatory*

Peter is recognized for developing and commercializing “multi-GAS” instruments that monitor volcanic gas compositions. He overcame technical challenges and worked with commercial manufacturers to build, sell, and distribute the technology to help meet demand for volcanic gas monitoring instrumentation and to provide USGS innovations for broader public use.



JAMES R. BALSLEY, JR.  
**Excellence in  
Technology  
Transfer Award**

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## Andrew Ritchie

*Pacific Coastal and Marine Science  
Center*

Andrew played a pivotal role in conceptualizing, designing, and implementing a new, innovative Data Service approach for publishing large data collections of aerial imagery, elevation models, and derivatives. This new capability transformed the ability to efficiently publish and disseminate extensive aerial survey data collections in a timely and accessible manner.



JAMES R. BALSLEY, JR.  
**Excellence in  
Technology  
Transfer Award**

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## **Bryce Redinger**

*Nevada Water Science Center*

Bryce is recognized for using a 3D printer to fabricate streamgage components to make his job easier, safer, and more cost efficient. His innovative equipment designs led to the development of the Innovations Depot website to openly share designs with others in water science. His leadership has inspired others to participate and share their innovations and ideas.



# USGS Safety and Occupational Health Award of Excellence

This award recognizes individuals and groups who create a safer work environment in support of the safe conduct of USGS science.



# USGS Safety and Occupational Health Award of Excellence

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*Individual Safety Awards*



**Dr. Lynn Copeland**

*Wetland and Aquatic Research Center*

As Center Director, Lynn has demonstrated outstanding leadership in fostering a robust safety culture by prioritizing staff training and implementing vital safety measures to enhance safety and preparedness in both field and laboratory environments. Lynn's commitment to comprehensive training and resource allocation has been instrumental in ensuring that all employees are well equipped to perform their roles safely and effectively.



# USGS Safety and Occupational Health Award of Excellence

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*Individual Safety Awards*



**Jaquie Craig**

*Great Lakes Science Center*

As the Safety and Occupational Health Specialist for the Great Lakes Science Center, Jaquie has enhanced safety program support for both the center and the Midcontinent Region. Her proactive efforts and leadership in safety initiatives have not only improved compliance and access to safety resources but have also established a high standard for fostering a culture of safety across the organization.



# USGS Safety and Occupational Health Award of Excellence

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*Individual Safety Awards*



**James Letsos**

*Upper Midwest Water Science Center*

As the Safety and Occupational Health Specialist for the Upper Midwest Water Science Center, James has excelled in developing a comprehensive safety program by coordinating safety initiatives, overseeing training, and addressing field personnel concerns. His proactive approach and effective communication have been instrumental in fostering a culture of safety, ensuring that personnel are well-prepared to identify and mitigate potential risks.



# USGS Safety and Occupational Health Award of Excellence

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*Individual Safety Awards*



**Aaron Shipman**

*Occupational Health and Safety Branch*

Aaron is recognized for his exceptional contributions to the database management and support for the Safety Management Information System, which have significantly enhanced safety reporting and accountability within the organization.



# USGS Safety and Occupational Health Award of Excellence

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*Individual Safety Awards*



**Collin Smith**

*Western Fisheries Research Center*

As a Collateral Duty Safety Program Coordinator, Collin has significantly improved safety by enhancing communication, conducting facility audits, and reducing safety training deficiencies, thereby promoting a culture of safety and contributing to improved safety compliance scores. His exemplary dedication and leadership in safety have set a high standard for ensuring a safer workplace.



# USGS Safety and Occupational Health Award of Excellence

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## *Individual Safety Awards*



**Roger Smith**  
*Rocky Mountain Region*

As the Regional Safety Manager, Roger has exemplified outstanding leadership and dedication for more than 33 years by significantly enhancing the occupational safety and health program, thereby enabling scientists to conduct critical research safely. His comprehensive audits, firearms training, chemical management guidance, and collaborative approach have transformed local safety practices and fostered a strong culture of safety and accountability.



# USGS Safety and Occupational Health Award of Excellence

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*Group Safety Awards*



## Aviation Safety Program

This team swiftly brought the USGS Aviation Safety Program into compliance and prepare for the FY24 Department of the Interior's 5-year Aviation Review, achieving a remarkable 95% aviation training completion rate despite significant leadership changes within the Midcontinent Region.



**Dirk Hart**



**Lisa Faust**



**Scott Lowe**



# USGS Safety and Occupational Health Award of Excellence

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## *Group Safety Awards*



## Personal Hazard Analysis (PHA) DOI Talent Transition Team

This team is honored for their pivotal role in developing the centralized PHA Module. By streamlining training management, creating a user-friendly interface, and providing real-time reporting, the team significantly improved tracking and compliance of safety training across the organization, fostering a culture of safety and reducing workplace risks.



**Jennifer Braden**



**Jennifer Butts**



**Reburn Collins**



**Brooke Fait**



**Shelby Hunter**



**Bill Miller**



**Cody Mitchell**



**Nathan Smiley**



**Veronica Stanley**



# USGS Safety and Occupational Health Award of Excellence

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*Group Safety Awards*



## The Wilderness First Aid Master Trainers

Through collaborative efforts and commitment to excellence, this team fostered a strong safety culture and ensured a knowledgeable USGS workforce that is prepared to handle wilderness emergencies effectively.



**Morgan Ford**



**Zachary Holcomb**



**Brent Sigafus**



**Eric Williams**



# USGS Safety and Occupational Health Award of Excellence

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*Group Safety Awards*



## Upper Midwest Water Science Center

This center provides safety coverage for employees across Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan, thanks to a dedicated team of technicians and scientists. This team excelled during challenging conditions, achieving impressive external safety audit compliance scores, and positioning the center's safety program among the top in the region.

**Katie Allenson**

**James Blount**

**Nicolas Buer**

**Donald Clark**

**Jeanette Cruz**

**Brent Heerspink**

**Judy Horwathich**

**David Housner**

**Richard Kiesling**

**Casimer (Ed) Lipinski**

**Mike Menheer**

**Jacob Ogorek**

**Brett Savage**

**Zachary Scott**

**Bryant Smak**

**Gerald Storey**

**Joel Stokdyk**

**Hailey Trompeter**

**Joseph Wallace**





# Dallas Peck Award

## Outstanding Scientist Emeritus

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This award recognizes significant contributions to the USGS mission by individuals while volunteering as a Scientist Emeritus.

Dallas Peck served as the 11<sup>th</sup> Director of the USGS from 1981 to 1993.





# Dr. Deborah Hutchinson

## 2024 Dallas Peck Outstanding Scientist Emeritus Award

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Since her 2017 retirement, Dr. Hutchinson has rendered extraordinary service to the USGS through her continued scientific leadership of the Law of the Sea Project. At the end of 2023, the USGS Law of the Sea effort that Debbie led for two decades culminated with the delineation of ~1 million square kilometers of seabed as US continental shelf, which has profound implications for national security and potential access to seafloor minerals. Debbie is recognized for her contributions to the nation, to the advancement of science, and to the development of the US marine workforce.



The background is a dark collage featuring a USGS worker in an orange vest on the right, a colorful topographic map of a mountain range in the center, and a field of wind turbines at the bottom.

# LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARDS



# 50-YEAR LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARDS



**Tyler B. Coplen**  
*Water Resources  
Mission Area*



**Edward W. Hildreth**  
*Volcano Science Center*



**David A. Lockner**  
*Earthquake Science  
Center*



# 50-YEAR LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARDS



**Jack H. Medlin**  
*Office of International  
Programs*



**Julie D. Nolan**  
*Volcano Science Center*



**Margaret L. Phillips**  
*New York Water  
Science Center*



# 40-YEAR LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARDS

*December 7, 2023 through Present*

**Nolanda V. Aguirre**  
*Funds Management Branch*

**Phyllis S. Altheide**  
*National Geospatial Technical  
Operations Center*

**Carol A. Bolden**  
*New Jersey Water  
Science Center*

**Sharon Borland**  
*Office of Policy and Analysis*

**Charles R. Bowker**  
*National Geospatial Technical  
Operations Center*

**Mehmet Celebi**  
*Earthquake Science Center*

**Charles E. Conley**  
*National Geospatial Technical  
Operations Center*

**Daniel D. Day**  
*Eastern Ecological  
Science Center*

**Katherine W. Day**  
*Colorado Water  
Science Center*

**Warren C. Day**  
*Mineral Resources Program*

**Samuel W. Droege**  
*Eastern Ecological  
Science Center*

**John Raine Jr. Erhard**  
*Office of Management Services*

**Melody R. Falepouono**  
*Earthquake Science Center*

**Brian R. Fiehler**  
*National Geospatial Technical  
Operations Center*

**Joseph Gambogi**  
*National Minerals  
Information Center*

**Eric L. Geist**  
*Pacific Coastal and Marine  
Science Center*



# 40-YEAR LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARDS

*December 7, 2023 through Present*

**Patricia M. Gonwa**  
*Office of Human Capital*

**John D. Gordon**  
*Oklahoma-Texas Water  
Science Center*

**Wladmir B. Guimaraes**  
*South Atlantic Water  
Science Center*

**Brian M. Heissenberger**  
*Upper Midwest Water  
Science Center*

**Stephen H. Hickman**  
*Earthquake Science Center*

**Annie M. Howard**  
*Office of Acquisitions  
and Grants*

**Mark R. Hudson**  
*Geosciences and  
Environmental Change  
Science Center*

**David R. Hughes**  
*National Geospatial Technical  
Operations Center*

**Rebecca S. Inman**  
*Science Publishing Network*

**Eric Jacobsen**  
*New Jersey Water  
Science Center*

**Carole D. Johnson**  
*Water Resources Mission Area*

**Deneen M. Johnson**  
*Office of Administration  
and Policy*

**Vaughn E. Kunishige**  
*Pacific Islands Water  
Science Center*

**Bruce D. Lindsey**  
*Water Resources Mission Area*

**Scott R. Nelson**  
*Great Lakes Science Center*



# 40-YEAR LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARDS

*December 7, 2023 through Present*

**Randall C. Orndorff**

*Florence Bascom  
Geoscience Center*

**Eric G. Reichard**

*Southwest Region*

**Gloria A. Roberts**

*Office of Management Services*

**Tonie E. Rocke**

*National Wildlife Health Center*

**Kenneth S. Rukstales**

*Geologic Hazards  
Science Center*

**Margaret J. Seaboy**

*Office of Acquisition  
and Grants*

**James B. Shanley**

*New England Water  
Science Center*

**Zoltan Szabo**

*New Jersey Water  
Science Center*

**Joanna N. Thamke**

*Oregon Water Science Center*

**Antoinette Warren**

*Funds Management Branch*

**Lisa E. Womack**

*Office of Acquisition  
and Grants*

**Laurel G. Woodruff**

*Geology, Energy and Minerals  
Science Center*

**Paul M. Young**

*National Civil Applications Center*



# SPECIAL THANKS

## TO THOSE WHO MADE THIS CEREMONY HAPPEN

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Arcelia Herrera– Bureau Honor Awards Coordinator



Haley Corbin– Awards Coordination

Mya Power – Awards Coordination

Kim Dueling – Awards Coordination

ELT Secretaries/Assistants – Awards Coordination

Bill Lukas – Awards Review/Coordination

Kristina Sussman – Graphics and Presentation

Stacy Curtis – Event Production

Grace Holderman – Event Production

Michelle Lee – Event Production

*Our deepest appreciation goes to all the USGS managers and supervisors whose continued support of the Honor Awards Program is a tribute to the entire USGS.*



# PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION FROM OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS

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Congratulations to our many employees who have received well-deserved professional recognition and accolades from organizations outside DOI and the federal government! Recognition includes:

- Employees named as fellows or elected to leadership positions in professional societies.
- Awards and medals from professional societies.
- Professional society lectureships.
- Best paper or editorship awards from journals.
- Awards from federal agencies and non-governmental organizations.

*We will continue to recognize employees and their accomplishments as Employee Shoutout posts on @theCore and in the weekly NeedToKnow email digest.*



A background image showing three USGS staff members in a field. One person in the foreground is wearing a white t-shirt with the USGS logo and the text 'science for a changing world'. They are looking towards a body of water with mountains in the distance.

# CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THOSE HONORED TODAY

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Your contributions make the USGS  
an exceptional place to work.






# Thank you for joining us today.

[www.usgs.gov/honor-awards](http://www.usgs.gov/honor-awards)





The background is a collage of images related to nature and community. It includes silhouettes of people celebrating with their arms raised, a person in a white shirt with the USGS logo and the slogan 'science for a changing world', and various natural scenes like mountains, a river, and a forest. The overall color palette is warm, with shades of yellow, orange, and green.

# 2024 USGS HONOR AWARDS CEREMONY

[www.usgs.gov/honor-awards](http://www.usgs.gov/honor-awards)

