



U.S. Geological Survey – 2015 Diversity Award Nomination Form

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**Nominator's Name:** Mary Wood; [mwood@usgs.gov](mailto:mwood@usgs.gov); 703-648-4710

**Nomination is** (circle one):    Non-supervisor            Supervisor            Group

**Name of Nominee:** Kevin T. Gallagher, Associate Director for Core Science Systems

**Duty Station:** Reston, VA

**Immediate Supervisor:** Suzette Kimball

During his time as the Associate Director for Core Science Systems, Kevin Gallagher has been one of the USGS's strongest advocates of ensuring diversity and inclusion in the workplace. His launch of the innovative "Diversity and Inclusion at USGS in 6 Words" web site exemplifies his commitment through providing a place for employees to anonymously express ideas on diversity more freely, resulting in added insight for management to USGS views on diversity. Kevin's leadership and support in creating a more inclusive workplace, while embracing and growing diversity as an asset to the Bureau's mission is commendable. Programs under his purview routinely hire students and strive to expand the margins of special hiring authorities to promote a diverse workforce, including women, minorities and veterans. Of particular note is the National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program's very popular "Best Student Geologic Map" competition, which has grown in just a few short years into a worldwide competition that substantially contributes to the pipeline of future geologic mappers. Kevin is a staunch supporter of the Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) and has personally engaged in many opportunities to talk with young people from that organization in an effort to encourage and grow minority STEM education and contributions to the USGS. He also strongly advocates for USGS participation in other STEM events such the annual Science and Engineering Festival, one of the largest STEM outreach events in the country. Kevin co-led the USGS workforce planning team which produced a Bureau Workforce Plan that outlined specific actions to attract and hire diverse candidates in the natural resources, biological and physical sciences series at a rate commensurate with the overall U.S. workforce. He encourages the efforts of USGS Diversity Change Agents as demonstrated by the substantial number of CSS senior leaders and staff that participate on the USGS Diversity Council. Diversity training and team building through self-awareness are major components of all of his senior leadership team meetings. He consistently recognizes outstanding performance among all of his staff and strongly encourages and supports award recognition whether it be a simple 'thank you' or a Meritorious Service Award. As demonstrated by his many accomplishments, Kevin practices what he preaches and serves as one the most outstanding champions and role models in the USGS for diversity and inclusion activities.

## **Diversity Award Nomination – Non supervisor**

**Nominator's Name:** Martha Garcia, Deputy Associate Director for Natural Hazards, mgarcia@usgs.gov, 703 648-6960

**Nomination is** Non-supervisor

**Name of Nominee:** Alexandra Chavez Hadley

**Duty Station:** Reston, VA

**Immediate Supervisor:** John Szemraj

**Chief, Diversity & Equal Opportunity:** Raymond Campbell

Alexandra Chavez Hadley, an EEO Specialist is to be commended for her efforts associated with the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science, SACNAS. SACNAS's primary mission is to mentor aspiring science and engineering students from minority communities and is the largest STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) diversity event in the country bringing together nearly 4,000 students and science professionals to highlight cutting-edge science, mentoring, networking, and professional development. Alexandra has coordinated the logistics for the USGS SACNAS Team for the past 8 years including recruiting scientists to attend and serve as judges and mentors, convening sessions, and coordinating and staffing the USGS booth at the conference. Additionally, she orchestrated a meeting with the SACNAS Executive Board, multiple SACNAS student chapter chairs and their educational mentors, and ELT members to plan relative science initiative products via contracts for SACNAS chapters at various colleges and universities. Her energy and dedication has been the driving force for keeping the USGS engaged with the annual meeting. Each year the USGS SACNAS team's participation in the meeting grows with the USGS serving as keynote speakers, hosting multiple scientific sessions and field trips, and serving as mentors. Alexandra is to be commended for her efforts to promote STEM efforts and highlighting the USGS as a viable workplace for STEM students.

## Diversity Award Nomination

**Nominator's Name:** Ulysees L. Gilbert, [ugilbert@usgs.gov](mailto:ugilbert@usgs.gov), 352-264-3514

**Nomination is (circle one)** Non-supervisor      Supervisor      Group

**Name of Nominee or Team Leader:** Howard L. Jelks

**Duty Station:** Gainesville, Florida

**Immediate Supervisor:** Gary L. Mahon

**Science Center Chief:** Kenneth G. Rice

Mr. Jelks is recognized for his diversity, inclusion, and outreach leadership activities by sponsoring diversity-related activities and events and for initiating or supporting open and honest discussion of science with youth of diverse social and economic backgrounds. He has been instrumental in lecturing and facilitating discussions on "Ecology and Biology Science" to students in public and private schools, such as Eastside and Gainesville High Schools and Passage Academy. Specific actions have included his delivery of donated plants from various nurseries in the community to Passage Academy, and instruction to the students on planting and caring of the plants, all to help beautify their campus.

Mr. Jelks has developed collaborative partnerships with the University of Florida, Santa Fe Community College, the City of Gainesville, Alachua County (Parks and Recreation), Gainesville Police Department, Alachua County Sheriff Office, and the Gainesville Science Coalition) to create a 3-acre "**Ecology Park**" at the Reichert House, which was founded by the current Gainesville Police Chief. Reichert House provides a structured, after-school program for African American boys at risk and needing assistance in making the transition from adolescence to adulthood. Mr. Jelks' establishment of Ecology Park allows students to learn more about general ecological principals and the biology/ecology of the area through bird watching, and acquaints students to the benefits of "parks and recreation".

Mr. Jelks is passionate, personifies motivating synergy, is dedicated to his profession, and expresses intense interest in sharing his discipline to ALL students, no matter their social and economic background. He truly deserves to be considered for the Diversity, Inclusion and Outreach Award.