

**NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROGRAMS**

OEOP BULLETIN NO. 09-01

October 8, 2008

SPECIAL EMPHASIS

SUBJECT: National Disability Employment Awareness Month

The Office of Equal Opportunity Programs, in collaboration with the Directorate for Geosciences and the Directorate for Education and Human Resources, cordially invite you to the NSF 2008 program in commemoration of National Disability Employment Awareness Month. The 2008 national theme is “America’s People, America’s Talent, America’s Strength.”

There are two events:

Dr. Michele Cooke

“Use Your Hands: Geologic Classroom and Field Activities with Deaf High School Students”

Tuesday, October 28, 2008

9:00 – 10:00 AM

Room 1235

AND

**“Accessible Science for Students with Disabilities in High School and College:
Demonstrations from the Field”**

Thursday, October 30, 2008

1:30 – 3:30 PM

Atrium, Stafford I

Descriptions of both these events are provided below.

Dr. Michele Cooke

“Use Your Hands: Geologic Classroom and Field Activities with Deaf High School Students”

Tuesday, October 28, 2008

9:00 – 10:00 AM

Room 1235

Dr. Michele Cooke is an Associate Professor in the Department of Geosciences of the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Dr. Cooke earned her PhD in Geological and Environmental Sciences with a minor in Mechanical Engineering at Stanford University. She utilizes her background in engineering mechanics to investigate the deformation of ancient and active geologic structures. By combining

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field investigations, physical experiments and numerical modeling, she studies the mechanisms that control deformation within the Earth's crust.

Recently Dr. Cooke has also been collaborating with high school teachers at schools for the deaf around the country. Being hearing impaired herself, she appreciates the opportunity to work with deaf students in understanding the world from a geologist's perspective. Dr. Cooke is an NSF CAREER Awardee.

**Accessible Science for Students with Disabilities in High School and College:
Demonstrations from the Field**

Thursday, October 30, 2008

1:30 – 3:30 PM

Atrium, Stafford I

High school students, college students, high school teachers, university faculty, and scientists will demonstrate the instruments and materials they developed and use for learning science. Visit the following project demonstrations to learn how blind students conduct chemistry experiments, how deaf students participate in field research, study geology and learn about robotics, and how students with learning disabilities use technology to study science:

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- The Pennsylvania State University's Independent Laboratory Access for Blind and Low Vision High School Students in the Mainstream Science Classroom.
- The Gallaudet University's Model Secondary School for the Deaf Sandbox Model of Geological Fault System Evolution.
- The Rochester Institute for Technology's Supporting Deaf and Hard of Hearing Undergraduate Students in STEM Field Settings with Remote Speech-to-Text Services.
- The Center for Applied Special Technology's Universal Design of Inquiry-Based Middle and High School Science Curricula.
- The Gallaudet University's Model Secondary School for the Deaf Botball Robotics Team.

Note: If accommodations are required for persons with disabilities, please contact OEOP at 703-292-8020 or eeo@nsf.gov. To ensure our ability to provide accommodations, please contact us by October 22, 2008.

James H. Lightbourne, III
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