

EARTH SCIENCE WEEK STAKEHOLDER RECEPTIONS ENHANCE AGI'S MISSION

Much of AGI's strength stems from its partnerships. In the fall of 2015, AGI hosted innovative Earth Science Week stakeholder receptions in two key cities, Denver and Houston, to build new relationships for AGI and also to help form networks among existing and new partners. These events were also designed to expand the impact of Earth Science Week, which is one of the premier outreach programs of AGI.

Over 50 leaders from the local geoscience and non-profit community, government and business organizations, and both K-12 schools and higher education took part in each of the meetings, allowing them to connect with other geoscience stakeholders and discussing how geoscience awareness can be enhanced. Participants in both Denver and Houston noted that it was the first time such a broad array of members of the geoscience community in their cities had gathered to discuss geoscience education and outreach.

The first event was held in Denver on October 6, and was sponsored by Anadarko, Belize Natural Energy and Newmont Mining



Ed Robeck presents ESW Premium Toolbox at Earth Science Week Stakeholder Reception in Denver.
AGI/Murtha

Corporations. The event was hosted by Susan Morrice, Chairperson of Belize Natural Energy, at her estate in Greenwood Village. Morrice is a successful geologist whose dedication to science and holistic thinking led to her discovery of oil in Belize. Morrice's life mission has been to teach people about the transformational power of their spirit within, and she has supported many individuals, community projects, and educational initiatives to this end.

"I was delighted to host the first of these very successful gatherings, bringing together the various geoscience sectors to inform both students and the public about the essential balance our world needs," Morrice said. "This message was very much in line with the core model I use in both business and in my life."

The Denver geoscience community has been one of the most active in the Earth Science

Week initiative over the past two decades. Activities there have increased over time, culminating in a Denver-area "Citywide Celebration" of Earth Science Week in 2014 and 2015.

Morrice and Marcelo Godoy, a Group Executive with Newmont Mining Corporation and Denver resident, opened the event. Morrice presented her motto *"Let the energy of the Earth ignite the energy of the people"*, and a simple message; each of us is responsible for the well-being of Earth and each other, and geoscience education can help the general public better understand this stewardship of our Planet.

"Mining is all about Earth science but is also about a long-term business," said Godoy. "At Newmont we believe that environmental stewardship and being a catalyst for sustainable economic empowerment in our host communities are not just the right things to do, they're good for our business. Earth Science Week promotes the understanding and appreciation of the value of earth sciences to our daily lives, which is essential for mining companies to gain social license to operate."



Susan Morrice, BNE President, addresses ESW Denver participants.

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Attendees also discussed the critical importance of geoscience education in an era when topics like jobs, energy, climate, and natural disasters rank among top public concerns. Through this reception, key players from the Denver area engaged with each other to reinforce relationships and foster

a geoscience-literate citizenry and possibly even future geoscientists from Colorado.

"It was exciting to see so many representatives from the greater Denver-area Earth science community come together and

start plans for collaborations and partnerships that will benefit the geosciences and the people of Colorado and the nation," said AGI President, Dr. Eric Riggs of Texas A&M University.

HOUSTON EVENT CONNECTS INDUSTRY LEADERS AND LOCAL COMMUNITY

The second reception was held on October 12, at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. As in Denver, the event was attended by a diverse group, including industry leaders, AGI Foundation trustees, community champions, and representatives from non-profit and education sectors.



Dan Domeracki, Vice President, Government and Industry Relations, Schlumberger Limited/Vice Chair, AGIF.

Image courtesy of Schlumberger

Two distinguished speakers, Steve Greenlee, President of Exploration for ExxonMobil and Dan Domeracki, Vice President of Schlumberger and Vice Chair of the AGI Foundation, were invited to speak to the group about how Earth science changed their lives.

Greenlee began with a rhetorical question: "What would the world look like without Earth science?" He called attention to the societal benefits of exposure to Earth science, commenting on how knowledge of Earth science enhances every person's daily life in many ways.

Greenlee emphasized that geoscientists have an important role to play as ambassadors of the geosciences. They need to accept that role, actively helping young people make decisions about their careers. People look at the current price of oil and wonder what it means for the next generation of geoscientists, but one has to take a longer view.

"Careers span decades — cycles happen. The need for energy and minerals remains. It is important to continue to encourage young people toward careers in the geosciences," said Greenlee.

For his part, Domeracki shared that the main influencer in his life was a high school teacher who thoughtfully mentored him. Domeracki described how his early interest in plate tectonics and participation in Boy Scouts also greatly affected him.

His further engagement in oceanography led to "many exciting field trips along the coast and interest in modern environments." Dan's professional career took off during the infamous Amoco Cadiz Oil Spill



Steve Greenlee, ExxonMobil Exploration President, spoke at the ESW Houston event.

Image courtesy of ExxonMobil

in France, when the first super-tanker broke. NOAA was called to help with the assessment and recovery activities. "The next thing I knew I was on the airplane to France," shared Dan.

"Geoscience is tremendously important for the world," said Domeracki. "The realization came to me that the interaction between the Earth, water, and food that we eat was all about geoscience."

As a way to give back, throughout his professional career of 37 years with Schlumberger Dan has continued to learn and share his passion for geosciences with the younger generation of geoscientists. Domeracki also emphasized the importance of geoscience education outreach for Schlumberger, which emphasizes the corporation's sense of social responsibility in all 85 countries in which it operates. Currently, Schlumberger is working together with AGI to advance the SEED Program (SEED stands for "Schlumberger Excellence in Educational Development"), which promotes geoscience education outreach around the globe.

"Young people today coming out of college have been misinformed about the oil and gas industry," noted Domeracki. "It's one