



The ESWN webpage as a tool to increase international collaboration in the Earth Sciences

Mirjam S. Glessmer (1), Manda Adams (2), Agatha M. de Boer (3), Meredith Hastings (4), and Rose Kontak (4)

(1) Geophysical Institute and Bjerknes Centre for Climate Research, University of Bergen, Norway (mglessmer@gmail.com), (2) University of North Carolina - Charlotte, United States of America, (3) Stockholm University, Sweden, (4) Brown University, United States of America

The Earth Science Women's Network (ESWN; ESWNOnline.org) is an international peer-mentoring network of women in the Earth Sciences, many in the early stages of their careers. ESWN's mission is to promote career development, build community, provide opportunities for informal mentoring and support, and facilitate professional collaborations. This has been accomplished via email and a listserv, on Facebook, at in-person networking events, and at professional development workshops. Over the last 10 years, ESWN has grown by word of mouth to include more than 1600 members working on all 7 continents. In an effort to facilitate international connections among women in the Earth Sciences, ESWN has developed a password protected community webpage where members can create an online presence and interact with each other. For example, regional groups help women to connect with co-workers at the same employer, in the same city or the same country, or with women at the place where they are considering taking a new job, will attend a conference or will start working soon. Topical groups center around a vast array of topics ranging from research interests, funding opportunities, work-life balance, teaching, scientific methods, and searching for a job to specific challenges faced by women in the earth sciences. Members can search past discussions and share documents like examples of research statements, useful interview materials, or model recommendation letters.

The new webpage also allows for more connectivity among other online platforms used by our members, including LinkedIn, Facebook, and Twitter. Built in Wordpress with a Buddypress members-only section, the new ESWN website is supported by AGU and a National Science Foundation ADVANCE grant.

While the ESWN members-only community webpage is focused on providing a service to women geoscientists, the content on the public site is designed to be useful for institutions and individuals interested in helping to increase, retain, promote, and advance women in the geosciences. Information on gender bias issues, as well as strategies to overcome these biases, is included. We also share gained knowledge with a broader audience, such as lessons learned at our professional development workshops, collected recommendations from members of podcasts, science books, writing materials, and resources for early career faculty. At the same time we provide a platform to highlight women in the Earth sciences, and links to our own and outside content in the form of, for example, Youtube videos, blogs, and Twitter feeds related to women geoscientists.