August 29, 2019

To ASCC and CAA members:

I am writing to document the College of Arts and Sciences’ strong endorsement of four new certificate programs coming out of the School of Earth Sciences as part of their substantial revision of the Earth Sciences BS program:

* Certificate in Natural History Museum Curation (certificate types 1, 2, and 3: embedded undergraduate; post-bachelor undergraduate; and graduate certificate (both embedded and stand-alone)).
* Certificate in Petroleum Geology (certificate types 1, 2, and 3, as above).
* Certificate in Hydrogeology (certificate types 1, 2, and 3, as above).
* Certificate in Marine Science (certificate types 1 and 3, as identified above).

All four of these certificates have been designed for in-person delivery at this time. Each certificate proposal (as well as the redesign of the Earth Sciences BS program) is the result of thoughtful and extensive assessment of the curriculum, student interest, and market appeal. These certificates should complement a number of existing natural science programs (both graduate and undergraduate—so they utilize 5000-level dual-career courses), and they should also, in distinct ways, appeal to individuals who are in the workforce and have already earned Bachelor’s degrees, to advance their careers and expand career opportunities.

The college of Arts and Sciences—as well as the Ohio Department of Higher Education and the State legislature--have been encouraging our departments to explore opportunities to develop certificate programs, and the School of Earth Sciences’ proposals are exemplary. They address both our college’s enrollment goals and our state’s workforce enhancement goals.

Sincerely,



he Ohio State University

**Steven Fink**

Associate Executive Dean, College of Arts and Sciences   
114 University Hall, 234 North Oval Mall, Columbus, OH 43210  
614.292.6868 Office / 614.247.7498 Fax

[Fink.5@osu.edu](mailto:Fink.5@osu.edu)