

28 August 2020



The Honorable Adriano Espaillat
1630 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Espaillat:

On behalf of the American Geophysical Union (AGU) and its community of 130,000 Earth and space scientists, I would like to thank you for your leadership on your amendment to H.R.7617 that highlights and encourages continued support of undergraduate STEM education at Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs). Over the years, we have seen some improvements in diversity in the geosciences, but a significant gap still exists in representation from ethnic and cultural minorities, including the Hispanic and Latino communities.

AGU appreciates your commitment to fostering and supporting a successful scientific enterprise that is representative of the diversity of our nation. We know that when we have a [diverse and inclusive research community and workplace](#), we will find better solutions to major challenges such as the climate crisis. While a range of perspectives and ideas strengthens science, achieving this requires that we as a nation commit to recognizing and addressing the cultural and institutional barriers that prevent many scientists from entering, remaining and advancing in their fields. We are grateful to you for supporting this mission and working to strengthen STEM education at HSIs.

AGU's mission is to advance discovery in Earth and space sciences and its benefit for humanity and the environment. We look forward to working with you to advance our shared commitment to these issues in the future. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me or my colleague Michael Villafranca at ashultz@agu.org or mvillafranca@agu.org, if AGU can be a resource to your office.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lexi Shultz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lexi Shultz
Vice President, Public Affairs
American Geophysical Union