

28 August 2020



The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson  
2306 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Johnson:

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 in requesting that the National Academies study racism in STEM studies and careers and in providing funding for the study in H.R.7617. While we have seen some improvements in diversity in the geosciences over the years, a significant gap still exists in the representation of ethnic and cultural minorities in these disciplines.

AGU appreciates your commitment to identifying and addressing barriers to 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. As we stated in [our letter](#) endorsing your STEM Opportunities Act of 2019, garnering the range of perspectives and ideas needed to strengthen science requires a commitment to recognizing and addressing the cultural and institutional barriers, including racism, that prevent many scientists from entering, remaining and advancing in their fields. We are grateful to you and your colleagues for supporting this mission and working to put a spotlight on the deeply rooted racism hindering the STEM community.

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](mailto:ashultz@agu.org) or [mvillafranca@agu.org](mailto: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