



Award for Excellence in Creative Inquiry Instruction

2019-2020

Dr. Lauren Michel
Earth Sciences

Dr. Lauren Michel is an Assistant Professor of Earth Sciences. Dr. Michel was selected for the Award for Excellence in Creative Inquiry—Instruction for her exceptional teaching that engages students in the discovery of new knowledge as a part of Tech’s Quality Enhancement Plan. Dr. Michel received an EDGE Grant for her course, Geologic Fundamentals. Within the course, Dr. Michel incorporated several creative inquiry projects. The biggest project being a semester-long project where students use books and online resources to “write their own textbook;” they create a reference guide of rocks and minerals in hand specimen and under a microscope, and fossils in hand specimen. However, nested within that large creative project were smaller projects such as designing activities to teach themselves about the fossils. Students in the course also did a creative inquiry project in collaboration with Dr. Jennifer Meadows where the students took one aspect of the class and made an activity for a FAB Friday event, to teach young kids about what they had learned. The last creative inquiry project the students did was to take photos of rocks under the microscopes they had not seen before, identifying minerals, and then writing a figure caption. The figure captions and photos went into a gallery walk where students could tell other students and professors what they observed.