

## **SOTL INQUIRY INTO STUDENTS MAKING MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS TO THE GEOSCIENCES**

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Wisconsin K-12 students have few opportunities to study geoscience outside of required units in fourth and eighth grade, resulting in a lack of understanding about educational and career opportunities available regardless of ethnicity, gender, etc. Although we are training new geologists every year, the deficit for the geoscience workforce will be approximately 130,000 by 2029 (Gonzales and Keane, 2020). Also, students are looking for altruistic careers, something geoscience can fill. To address assumptions of perception such as presented in Brookfield (2017), students played Geology Bingo, which consists of 25 activities about the discipline, employment opportunities, and meaningful careers to help their communities. Activities were selected and arranged so all students had a path to completion regardless of internet access, transportation, or money. Geology students completed a pretest and post-test covering questions about their understanding of the science of geology, career opportunities in geology, and their satisfaction with their current majors.

