



**ADVANCING EARTH
AND SPACE SCIENCE**

7 May 2019

Anand Gnanadesikan
Chair
Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences
Johns Hopkins
3400 N. Charles St.
301 Olin Hall
Baltimore, MD 21218

Dear Dr. Gnanadesikan:

On behalf of the American Geophysical Union (AGU), I am writing to let you know that, in recognition of Ben Zaitchik's outstanding work, AGU has selected him for our 2019 Voices for Science program. This program is available to scientists with strong communication skills and an interest in sharing the value and impact of Earth and space science with key decision makers, journalists, and public audiences, to increase the widespread understanding of and support for science. As a member of the 2019 class, Ben was selected from a highly competitive applicant pool based on demonstrated leadership and the potential to positively influence the local community.

Voices for Science provides its participants with many resources, including unique skills-building workshops and toolkits focused on communications and policy; hands-on support from AGU staff in conducting and organizing outreach opportunities; and expense-paid travel to Washington, D.C. for an April workshop and to San Francisco, CA for the AGU Fall Meeting in December. Beyond the professional development opportunities in the program, Ben will also network and collaborate with the 34 other scientists selected for the program, and the 30 members of the 2018 inaugural class.

The scientific enterprise depends heavily on federal support, and now more than ever, it is essential for scientists to interact with policy makers, the public and the media on a regular basis. Lawmakers need to hear about critical issues both directly from scientists and from their constituents, and Ben's efforts to reach out to legislators on Capitol Hill and galvanize the local community can and will make a difference.

Collectively, the Voices for Science participants will help to amplify science and its worth and help both policymakers and the broader community see that our nation continues to support and benefit from our scientific enterprise.



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Ben's enthusiasm for developing and using communication and advocacy skills as part of the 2019 Voices for Science program shows a tremendous dedication to promoting science for the benefit of the scientific community and humanity at large, and AGU would like to commend him.

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Voices for Science program, please do not hesitate to contact our Public Affairs or Sharing Science teams (policy@agu.org, sharingscience@agu.org). We look forward to working with your department and Ben in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Christine W. McEntee'.

Christine W. McEntee
Executive Director/CEO
American Geophysical Union