

**The National Science Foundation's
Opportunities for Enhancing Diversity in the Geosciences (OEDG) Program
at
Stony Brook University**

[Paul Siegel](#)

Department of Technology and Society
Stony Brook University
Stony Brook, NY 11794-3760

In October of 2009, Stony Brook University received a \$1.5 million National Science Foundation Track 2 OEDG award. Dr. Gilbert Hanson of the Department of Geosciences is the Principal Investigator, and the local name of the program is GeoPREP. The GeoPREP program is a multi-track program that will serve high school students from high needs school districts on Long Island, underrepresented minority undergraduates, and in-service and pre-service earth science teachers. We address the lack of scholastic follow-up opportunities for students in New York State whose interest in the geosciences has been whetted by 8th or 9th grade Earth Science. The Track 2 proposal expands on successful program models created during our Track 1 project. These include an intensive summer residential geoscience research program for high school students, a series of in-service teacher training workshops to develop new interdisciplinary geoscience curricula, and with our partner, Brookhaven National Laboratory, webcasts from the National Synchrotron Light Source and further development of the Open Space Stewardship Program. New components include the introduction of an academic-year university laboratory visitation program that provides for expanded hands-on geoscience learning activities, scholarship support for undergraduates in the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation, and a longitudinal study of attitudes and possible biases towards the geosciences by underrepresented minority students.