

## **SCIENTIST IN EVERY FLORIDA SCHOOL: ENGAGING THE NEXT GENERATION IN WATER EDUCATION**

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The hydrosphere is crucial to the future of Florida's environment and sustainability. TESI's *Scientist in Every Florida School* (SEFS) "moonshot" program provides a path and training to help you get your research disseminated into K-12 schools around the state, and thus reach an important audience—the next generation. Through the moonshot we will facilitate in-person and virtual scientist visits to reach elementary, middle and high schools throughout the state. The STEM content that we support includes the broad range of earth systems science, including air (atmosphere), land ("geosphere"), life (biosphere), and of relevance here—water (hydrosphere). Our current award is a three-year pilot focused on five Florida counties, i.e., Alachua, Escambia, Lee, Palm Beach, and Seminole. This presentation will: (1) give an overview and examples of our successes and lessons learned, and (2) provide information about how water scientists can participate in our program and expand their reach to broader audiences. Participants will learn how they can host a lab experience, best communication tips for K-12 outreach, how to incorporate K-12 learning standards into their research, and testimonials from participating scientists thus far. In addition to, or in support of, classroom "visits," in the future our program will: (1) host summer teacher professional development, including research lab experiences at UF; (2) provide focused support for "at risk" teachers; and (3) train scientists in science communication optimized for the K-12 classroom. All school visits are aligned to, and mapped from, state science standards (e.g., CPALMS) and we provide training for scientists interested in participating in SEFS. We are always looking to partner with scientists who have already developed K-12 outreach programs, or who are interested in developing new programs (e.g., as part of an NSF Broader Impacts plan). With your help, the SEFS moonshot can further focus on the hydrosphere.

**PRESENTER BIO:** Dr MacFadden is Distinguished Professor and Director, Thompson Earth Systems Institute (TESI), Florida Museum of Natural History, UF. A geologist and paleontologist, he has published about 200 peer-reviewed articles and the recent book *Broader Impacts of Science on Society* (Cambridge, 2019).