

GEOFORCE MONTHLY

Changing lives since 2005



Enrique Reyes (M) talking with STEMFORCE students at Pedernales Falls in 2019.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: ENRIQUE REYES

Over a decade after his last summer as a GeoFORCE student, Enrique Reyes remains an active member of the GeoFORCE community. For the past five summers, Reyes has helped foster the next generation of GeoFORCE and STEMFORCE students as an educational coach (EC).

"I started working for GeoFORCE as soon as I could, applying to be a counselor during my 1st year of college," Reyes said. "I did about 10 trips as a counselor before I became an EC during my 1st year of teaching. I always wanted to keep working for GeoFORCE because of the community and mission of the program. GeoFORCE is my family."

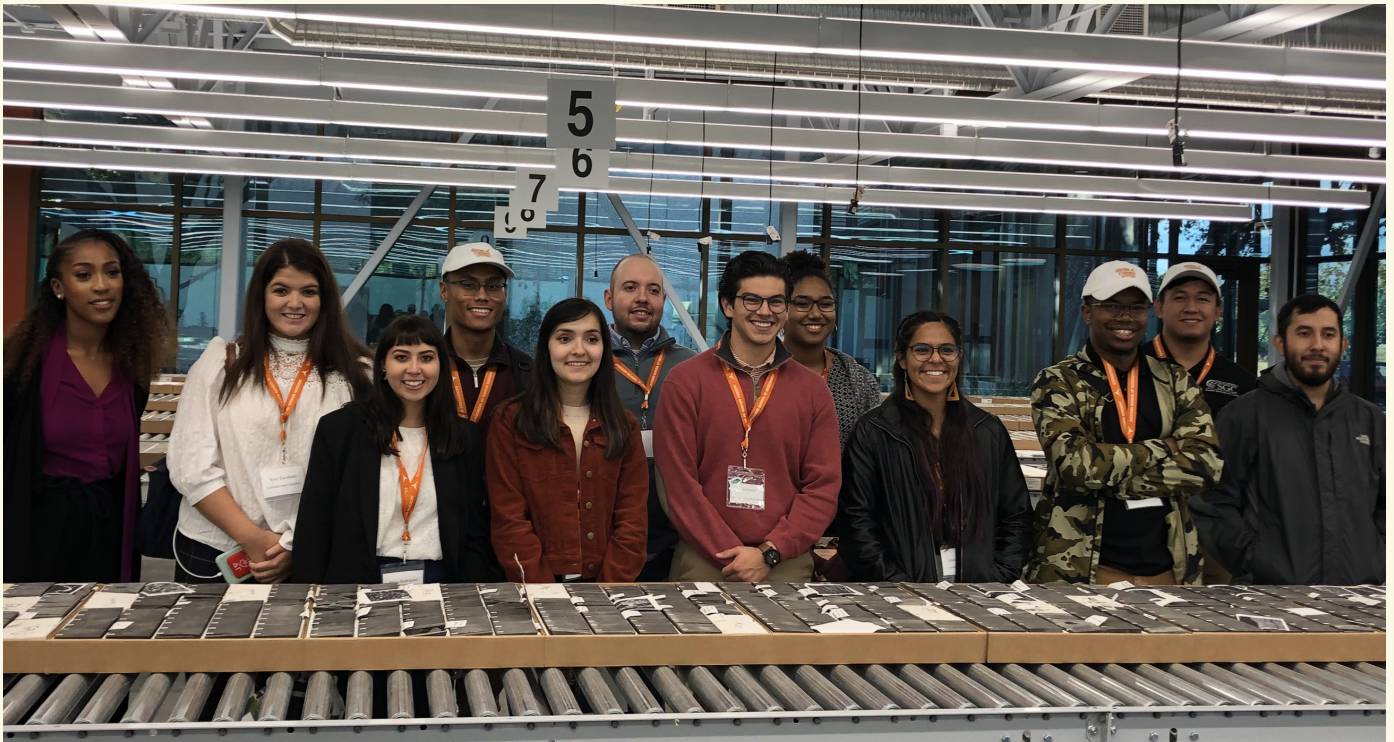
Reyes got his Bachelor of Science in general geology at The University of Texas' Jackson School of Geosciences in 2016 and immediately began working as a high school teacher. At Akins High School, he wears many hats. Alongside being the lead biology teacher, Reyes also teaches the aquatic science elective and the dual-credit On-Ramps geoscience course created by The University of Texas.

Reyes makes a point of continuing his own education in the geosciences to better teach his students about it. He currently works on geoscience education research with Dr. Kathy Ellins and Dr. Rowan Martindale. He presented this research at the Earth Educators Rendezvous for the past two years and is on the planning committee for next year's event.

Reyes also joined several professional organizations, most notably the National Earth Science Teachers Association, where he is the youngest member on their Board of Directors and their diversity officer.

"This generation of kids is nothing short of exceptional and drives me to be my best every day," Reyes said. "I want to bring equity to the U.S. through science education and Earth science, and this is the boots-on-the-ground method."

GeoFORCE Texas is an outreach program through The University of Texas at Austin's Jackson School of Geosciences that introduces high school students from underserved communities to STEM and geoscience careers through summer field experiences, corporate mentoring, and college guidance. In 2015, our program was honored with the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring—the highest such honor from the United States government. More information can be found on our website at <https://www.jsg.utexas.edu/geoforce/>.



EDGE participants at the Bureau of Economic Geology's Core Research Center in 2019.

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

GeoFORCE is now hiring summer 2021 staff—counselors, trail drivers, educational coaches-in-training, educational coaches, and instructors.

Please know your summer availability and have a cover letter and resume/CV combined into a single PDF or Word doc before applying.

Apply by November 30th, 2020

INTERNSHIP & SCHOLARSHIP RESOURCES

- Geoscience Research Programs & Internship Opportunities for Undergrads & Recent Grads
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- Scholarships for High School Students

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PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: EDGE

On November 5th and 6th, 2020, the Jackson School of Geosciences hosted its third EDGE program. EDGE, or Enhancing Diversity in Geoscience Graduate Education, is a graduate school preview event inspired by the National Science Foundation and designed to encourage a more diverse graduate student applicant pool.

This year, EDGE took its programming virtual, allowing for a wider breadth of participants than the previous two years. Students from countries such as Egypt, India, Ghana, Columbia, Jamaica, Nigeria, and seven states across the United States of America logged into Zoom for this two-day event.

The students began with watching the DeFord lecture, a distinguished forum for visitors to present their research to the Jackson School. EDGE participants were given a chance to have a private discussion with the week's chosen DeFord guest, Yadira Ibarra, before the lecture.

The participants then met and heard from Jackson School graduate students who presented posters of their research. Early the next morning, another half-dozen graduate students filled a panel giving advice on graduate studies in the geosciences.

After the panel, students listened to eight different faculty and researchers give lightning talks and presentations. This was followed by virtual lab tours where the students were shown the geochronology, isotope, rock deformation, electron micro-beam, and mud rock geochemistry labs.

The dean of the Jackson School, director of the Bureau of Economic Geology, and another dozen faculty members and researchers attended a presentation introducing the 18 EDGE participants. Then, the students were given a chance to visit one-on-one with faculty whose research interested them.

"Learning about research in geoscience is always something that I enjoy and seeing how many paths that you can take with UT was an eye-opening experience. There really is something for everyone whether you want to do field work or lab research!" said Cheyenne Hibbitts, GeoFORCE alumna and 2020 EDGE participant.

To complete the event, participants were invited to finish the last day at an informal get-together organized by Graduate Student Executive Committee representative, Kiara Gomez. We hope that EDGE helped these students feel at home at the Jackson School and we look forward to seeing them join the family as graduate students in the near future.