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Preparing Future Geoscientists for Professional Registration

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The Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of British Columbia (APEGBC) is a self-regulatory body that governs the practice of professional geoscience and engineering in British Columbia, Canada. Currently, there are more than 1600 practicing Professional Geoscientists and 300 Geoscientists-in-Training registered with APEGBC.

At APEGBC, we believe the future success of the geoscience profession depends on the students of today. The association offers numerous services for elementary, high school and university students, as well as teachers, faculty and our members, to direct young and enthusiastic minds to the profession.

While in university, geoscience students can become student members of APEGBC. Student members have access to networking opportunities, financial benefits and professional development resources. The association also engages in university outreach by giving presentations to earth science students as well as trying to foster connections with faculty members. This is all in an effort to ensure that upon graduation, an individual will be able to meet the academic requirements should he/she choose to pursue professional membership.

Upon graduation, most geoscience students begin the process of becoming a Geoscientist-in-Training (GIT). This designation signifies that an individual is academically qualified for one of the three practice areas of Geoscience (Geology, Environmental Geoscience, and Geophysics) and is in the process of gaining the necessary experience working under the supervision of professional geoscientists.

Once enrolled, a GIT is expected to keep a record of their work experience as it is gained. A total of four years of satisfactory geoscience work experience is required before a GIT can apply to be a Professional Geoscientist (P.Geo.). A GIT is deemed to have met the experience requirements when their work record and references have been assessed and approved by reviewers who share the same practice area. In addition to the work experience, the applicant is required to attend a law and ethics seminar and successfully pass a professional ethics exam.

APEGBC applicants, GITs or Professional Geoscientists can also choose to join the APEGBC Mentoring Program. This program teams up mentees with mentors who can provide guidance on career options, establishing a professional network, entrepreneurship and leadership coaching.

APEGBC is committed to increasing awareness of the geoscience career options to students from elementary into university. Through the creation of various outreach activities and resources, APEGBC is taking a leadership role in educating and inspiring the future generations of geoscientists and continues to strive for new and innovative ways to attract students to a career in geoscience.

