

International Association of Hydrogeologists U.S. National Chapter's 2022 International Service Award

Dr. Stephen Silliman

Dr. Stephen Silliman, Dean of the School of STEM at Trevecca Nazarene University, has been selected to receive the 2022 International Association of Hydrogeologists U.S. National Chapter's International Service Award. The Award recognizes the efforts of hydrogeologists based in the United States who have shown an outstanding commitment to assisting the international community with groundwater-related needs.

Dr. Silliman is receiving the International Service Award in recognition of his dedication to leading collaborative research and teaching activities focused on developing safe and sustainable groundwater resources in Africa and Haiti. He has established and directed multiple interdisciplinary research and service learning programs primarily centered at Notre Dame and Gonzaga Universities aimed at improving, protecting, and managing critical groundwater resources, mainly in Benin, West Africa. These highly successful programs have involved, firstly, building infrastructure for effective groundwater resource management through well drilling campaigns, critical data collection, improving the capabilities of Benin groundwater professionals and students, and educating local populations. A second key component is student exposure; for over 20 years they have provided U.S. undergraduate and graduate students opportunities to work directly with peers from the Universite d'Abomey-Calavi (national university in Benin), local water professionals, and local citizens to see engineering in a broader global/ethical context and develop a long-lasting interest in international service work. A third key component is extensive multi-disciplinary and multi-institutional work to advance groundwater management strategies that can be applied throughout the developing world. These innovative efforts have involved faculty and students in engineering and geoscience working with others in the social sciences (history, anthropology, health-related fields, etc.) to more broadly understand the complex societal challenges of natural resource management. In short, Dr. Silliman has performed exceptional work in assisting those in developing countries with developing, managing, and protecting groundwater resources for public benefit, as well as inspiring the next generation of groundwater scientists to do the same.

The Award will be presented to Dr. Silliman during the Hydrogeology Division Luncheon and Awards Ceremony at the Geological Society of America Annual Meeting in Denver, Colorado on Tuesday, October 11th. We hope you can join us for the presentation.

Congratulations Dr. Silliman!