

2019
Conference



Keynote Speaker



Dr. Shannon Kobs Nawotniak

Dr. Shannon Kobs Nawotniak is a professor of volcanology at Idaho State University. She is a leader in the FINESSE, BASALT, and SUBSEA NASA research projects, using volcanoes on Earth to understand the Moon, Mars, and Enceladus and whether they could have supported life. She has worked on or visited active volcanoes in 7 different countries.

When she's not chasing volcanoes or pretending to be an astronaut, she likes to read, play with her dogs, and run long distance.

The keynote address is sponsored by a grant from the South Dakota Space Grant Consortium.

Melissa Austin, Operations Manager, VP Construction Industry Center, President



J & J Asphalt Company
BA English, University of Wyoming
BS Interdisciplinary Science, South Dakota
School of Mines and Technology

“Go where few women have gone before! Create your own opportunities and take advantage of your unique gender-specific skillset. Be brave and strong when faced with a professional career where women are woefully underrepresented.”

Leacey Brown, Gerontology Field Specialist



South Dakota State University Extension
AAS, Community College of the Air Force
BA, Minot State University
MS, St. Cloud State University

“Strive to be happy. The root of happiness is found in your passion whether it be helping others, creating new innovative products, or discovering the solution to a problem. Success is a byproduct of happiness.”

Rachel Byrum, Pharmacist



Walgreen's
BS Business Administration, Black Hills State
University MBA, University of South Dakota
Doctor of Pharmacy, South Dakota State
University

“When a dream or goal seems too big it helps to break it up into several smaller goals. Before you know it, what may have seemed impossible has been accomplished.”

Eva Chase, Sustainability Coordinator and Adjunct Professor



Black Hills State University

BS Geography: Environmental Studies and
Sustainability, Slippery Rock University of
Pennsylvania

MS in Environmental Management, Hardin-
Simmons University

“The only person that can limit your success is you. Never shy away from an opportunity or what you really want because you’re afraid. Always do your best, never settle, and never underestimate yourself and you’ll get where you want to go!”

Jessica Czerny, Veterinarian, Optometrist



Animal Care Center of Spearfish
Mountain Valley Vision Center
Attended, Black Hills State University
Doctor of Optometry, Michigan College of
Optometry
Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, Texas A&M

“Don’t be discouraged if someone tells you something is too hard or unachievable, at least give whatever your dream is a try.”

Deena Davis, CRNA; Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist



**Rapid City Regional Hospital
BS Nursing, South Dakota State University
MS Nursing, Mount Marty College**

Brigham Young said “You educate a man, you educate a man. You educate a woman, you educate a generation.” Let’s thank the women before us by succeeding, helping each other succeed, and leading the way for future generations.

Abigail Domagall, PhD, Associate Professor of Geology



**Black Hills State University
BS Geological Science, University of Leeds, UK
MS, PhD Geology (Volcanology), University at
Buffalo, NY**

“Get involved and take as many opportunities that come your way as possible. Take opportunities to work shadow, to check out universities and their programs, to get to know your teachers or professors, and later, to participate in research, and go to conferences.”

Holly Downing, Professor



Black Hills State University

BS Zoology, Smith College

MS Entomology, University of Wisconsin-
Madison

PhD Entomology, University of Wisconsin-
Madison

*“As you plan for your future, be
imaginative, be flexible, and remember to
have fun along the way.”*

Maggie Engler, Cofounder and President of the Board



Black Hills Raptor Center, Volunteer
BS Natural Resource Management
with a specialty in Environmental
Education and Education, University
of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

“Don’t worry about what others think, say or do. Be yourself! You will find life is rich, full and exciting when you are true to yourself.”

Samantha Figgins, DC, Chiropractor



Health Source of Rapid City
BS, Palmer College of Chiropractic
DC, Palmer College of Chiropractic

“Whatever your passion may be, take it, and nurture the idea of what happiness it will bring in your future. We only live one life so we shouldn’t spend a single second of it doing something that doesn’t bring joy and fulfillment to our lives.”

Sara Gottlob, Certified Nurse Practitioner



Regional Health

AS Business, BHSU

BS Nursing, SDSU

AS Nursing, USD

MS Nursing, SDSU

“Work hard every day to succeed and achieve your goals in life. Your daily sweat and endurance will persevere.”

Kathy Haivala, Optometrist



Spearfish Eye Care Center
BS, University of South Dakota
Doctorate of Optometry, Southern California
College of Optometry

“Don’t feel like you have to know exactly what you want to be when you grow up. Pick an area that interests you, and go to college, and your path will become clearer as you continue to learn!”

Marci Heine, DPT; Physical Therapist



**Spearfish Regional Hospital
BS, SDSU**

**Master of Physical Therapy Degree, USD
Doctor of Physical Therapy Degree, USD**

“When thinking about careers related to science, it doesn’t have to be looking into microscopes or wearing goggles when watching explosions. A career in science is just observing, asking questions, then watching to see if something changes. Every day I observe a person’s movements. I manipulate variables by giving exercise, provide training or a treatment. I then recheck shoulder movement to see if there is a change.”

Paula Jensen, Industrial Engineering Lecturer



South Dakota School of Mines and Technology
BS Industrial Engineering, South Dakota School of Mines and
Technology
MS Technology Management, South Dakota School of Mines
and Technology

“I went to the “Girls Day” at SDSM&T when I was in 8th grade, and I decided then I was going to be an engineer. My advice is to be proactive and start taking all the math and science classes you can in High School. On top of focusing on academics be in extra-curricular activities too. It will teach you how to manage your time, which can be the best skill you will ever learn!”

Deb Kuehn, Certified Neonatal & Family Nurse Practitioner



Rapid City Regional Hospital & Black Hills Pediatrics & Neonatology

BA Nursing and Psychology, Augustana College

MSN Perinatal Nursing, Indiana University

Certificate - Neonatal Nurse Practitioner, SDSU

Certificate – Family Nurse Practitioner, SDSU

“Follow your heart’s desire and shoot for the stars. You can do anything you want, but it usually will take time and perseverance.”

Deborah Liddick, Assistant Director of Facilities and Sustainability



Black Hills State University
BS Mathematics, Wilkes University
MS Aeronautical Science, Embry Riddle Aeronautical Univ.
MS National Recourse Strategy, National Defense University

“With a STEM degree, you might find yourself working in a mostly male dominated career field but always remember you don’t have to present yourself as “one of the boys” to succeed, you should trust your brain and be a confident woman.”

Kelli McCormick, Senior Lecturer in Mining Engineering and Management



South Dakota School of Mines and Technology
BS Geology, Idaho State University
MS Geology, University of New Mexico
PhD, MA Earth and Planetary Science, Johns
Hopkins University

“Adaptability is important to success. Being a lifelong learner will help you achieve your goals.”

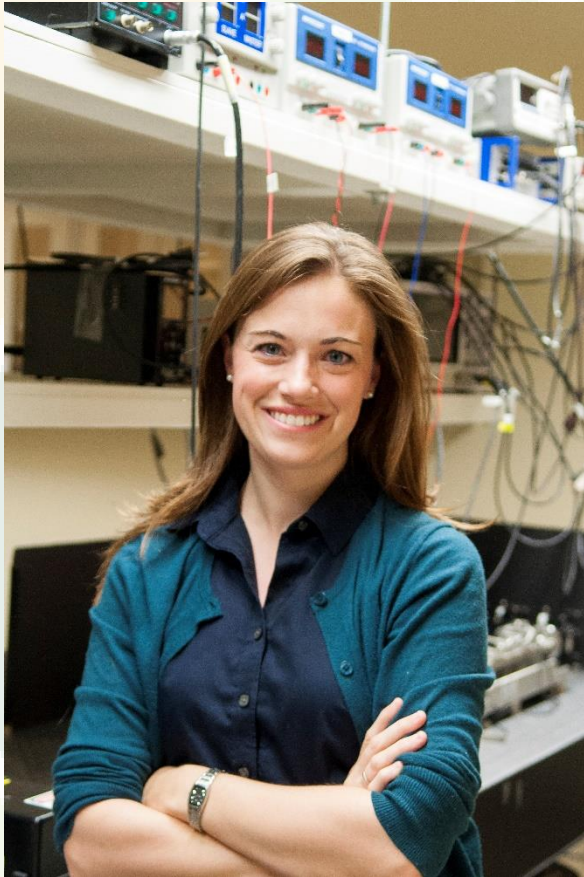
Zindie Meyers, District Manager



Lawrence County Conservation District
BA Sociology, University of Minnesota
Morris

“Use your educational opportunities to explore a wide range of subjects. Be open to new ideas and interests as they present themselves. Don’t be afraid to switch course; life rarely runs in a straight line.”

Brianna Mount, PhD, Assistant Professor of Physics



Black Hills State University

BS, Physics and Mathematics, University of Idaho

PhD, Physics, Florida State University

“Curiosity is one of the most important ingredients for a career in science. If you’re curious and have a good imagination, you can always learn the rest if you work hard enough. ‘When you’re curious, you find lots of interesting things to do.’-Walt Disney

2nd Lt. Malisa Niles, Deputy Commander of Cadets



South Dakota Civil Air Patrol
BS Agricultural Education,
South Dakota State University
Masters of Education in
School Administration, South
Dakota State University

“Always be learning and stretching yourself. The world is constantly changing and developing new pathways; grow with it. Never settle.”

Peggy Norris, Education and Outreach Deputy Director



Sanford Underground Research Facility
BA Chemistry and Physics, Rice
University
MA, MPhil, PhD in Chemical Physics,
Columbia University

“Follow your passions wherever they may lead you; don't be afraid to change paths.”

Lauren Olme, Pilot/Weapons and Tactics Assistant Flight Commander



United States Air Force
BS English Literature, United States Air
Force Academy

“Whatever roadblocks stand in your way, tear them down! Work hard for your dreams and do not be afraid to ask for help along the way.”

Sara Pesek, Director of Business Development



GenPro Energy Solutions

BS Finance and International Business, New York University

MA Design and Environment, Goldsmiths, University of London

“On your way to becoming great, you will try lots of things and you will fail a lot. Embrace failure – it can be heartbreaking but it makes you stronger and better. Nothing truly great ever got done perfectly the first time.”

Olga Potopova, Collections Curator and Manager



The Mammoth Site of Hot Springs, SD
Zoological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences
Department of Mammoth Fauna Studies, Yakutian
Academy of Sciences
MS, St. Petersburg State University

“Do not afraid to think independently and be unlike “everybody”. Never believe those who tell you that you are not good at something. Trust your intuition, continue learning, be curious and **DO** something to follow your dream – it **WILL** always pay off.”

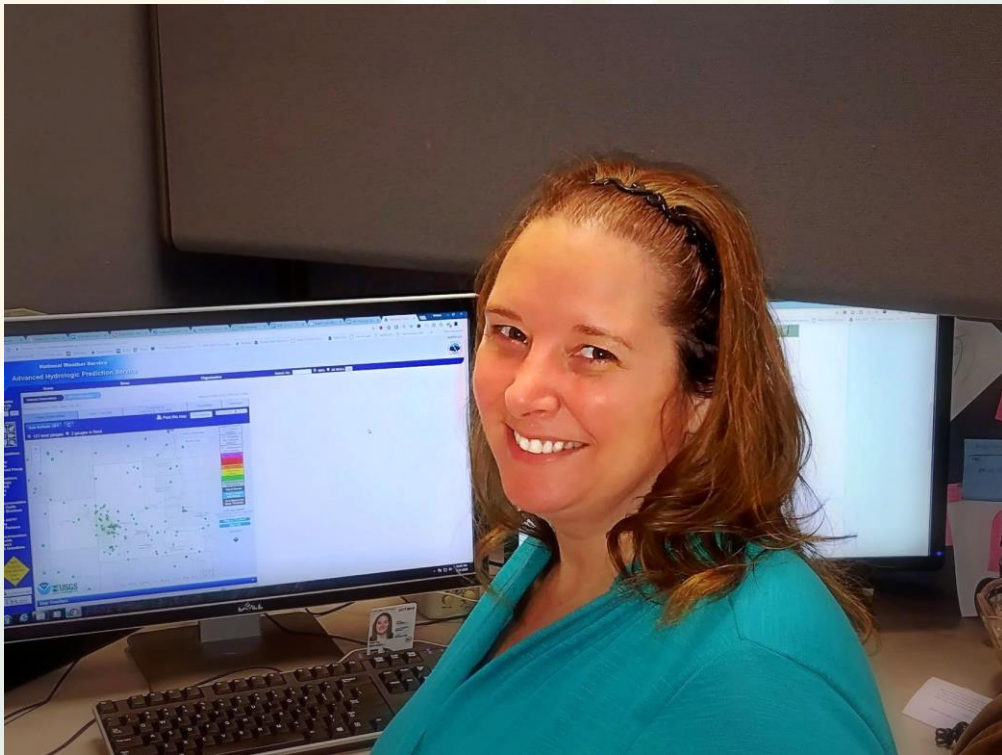
Susan Sanders, Warning Coordination Meteorologist



National Weather Service
BS Atmospheric Science, University of Michigan
Masters in Public Administration, University of
Nebraska

“Don’t be afraid to go to new places or do new things!”

Melissa Smith, Service Hydrologist



**NOAA National Weather Service
BS Atmospheric Science, Iowa State
University**

**“Take lots of math, science, and
computer classes. The more variety,
the better since many employers
prefer to hire people with diverse
backgrounds and training.”**

Ann Slaughter, Vice President of Strategic Telecommunications Accounts



**TEOCO Corporation, Retired
BA Mathematics and German, Middlebury College
MS Biostatistics, Harvard University**

**“Be curious and always learning. Do what you love
and you will always love what you do!”**

Logan Stone, Principal Regulatory Affairs Specialist



Medtronic, Inc

BS Animal Science, Iowa State University

**MS Regulatory Affairs for Drugs, Biologics and
Medical Devices, Northeastern University**

**“Ensure you work hard in everything you do and
take every opportunity to experience something
new. Pursue your passion in STEM and the world
will be at your fingertips.”**

Christine Waller, Education Coordinator

THE JOURNEY MUSEUM  LEARNING CENTER

Journey Museum and Learning
Center

BS Elementary Education,
Montana State University-
Northern

Constance Walter, Communications Director



South Dakota Science and Technology Authority
AA Liberal Arts, Bismarck State College
BA English and Communication Arts, Dickinson State
University
MS Organizational Management, Peru State College

*“Other people’s dreams are not your dreams, so Do
What You Love. It will take you down roads you didn’t
know were there, challenge you in ways you never
expected, and lead you to a place of wonder.”*

Kara Weigel, Physical Therapist



**Regional Health
BS Biology, Augustana University
MS Physical Therapy, Baylor University
Transitional Doctorate of Physical Therapy,
Baylor University**

“Set long term and short-term goals for yourself and share them with people that will help you make a plan to reach those goals. You shouldn’t choose not to do something because you are afraid of failing, failure is okay, that is how we grow and learn.”

Kelly Whitaker, Information Technology Officer



National Weather Service
BS Computer Science, State
University of New York
MS Technology Management, South
Dakota School of Mines and
Technology

“You will learn much more from your failures than successes.”

Linda Wiley, Logistics Center Manger, Manager of Distribution Projects for Common Process



Caterpillar, retired
BS Mathematics, South Dakota School of
Mines & Technology

“You are responsible for your life, your successes and your mistakes. Everyone makes mistakes -- own them, hold up your head, and learn from them.”

Exhibitors

BHSU Admissions

BHSU Library

BHSU Women in STEM

Jewel Cave National Park

Mammoth Site of Hot Springs

National Resource Conservation Service

Exhibitors

National Weather Service

Regional Health Spearfish Hospital Pharmacy

Sanford Underground Research Facility

South Dakota Game Fish & Parks – Bird Conservancy

United States Air Force – South Dakota Civil Air Patrol

United States Geological Survey

Sponsors



Spearfish Optimists Club
BHSU Admissions



BHSU Women in STEM
William Walsh