

How a Mentor Helped Me Achieve the P.Geo. Status

Amber Blackwell, P. Geo.



Mount Edziza in Northern B.C.
Photo by Amber Blackwell

A career in geoscience is very exciting, rewarding, broad, and can be a little daunting for a recent graduate. Shortly after graduating from the University of Waterloo in 2011, I began my career at a consulting firm. I gained a great deal of experience in the first 5 years of my career. With a full work load, I was finding it very difficult to devote the time to prepare my P.Geo. application, including preparing for Professional Practice Ethics (PPE) Exam. When APGO launched the Mentoring Program, I was very eager to sign up for the program as a mentee. I felt like the program could provide me with the encouragement that I needed to help me reach my next career goal – from being a GIT to becoming a full practising P.Geo.

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I was matched with Christine Petch, P. Geo. one of APGO's volunteer mentors. From my first correspondence with Christine, I knew that she was the person that I needed to guide me along. Her drive and passion for her profession were evident and I felt recharged after every phone call with her. I knew from our initial phone meeting that I could be open with her and that she would be able to provide me with the advice and support that I needed to excel in my profession. Together we planned out a realistic timeline and milestones to get me on the path to P.Geo. status- studying and preparing for the PPE exam; writing the PPE exam; and preparing my P.Geo. application for submission. In addition to holding me accountable to these milestones, she assisted me with discovering who I am as an individual and how to tailor my workload and assignments to maximize my potential. I am very proud to say that I accomplished my goal in getting the Professional Geoscientist designation in September 2016 and I could not have done it without Christine's help.

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To date, I continue to meet with my mentor and getting valuable guidance in enhancing my organization and time management skills.

I highly encourage students and geoscientists-in-training to take advantage of APGO's Mentoring Program. I know how stressful and overwhelming it can be entering into a career as a geoscientist, but there are experienced individuals who have been there and are willing to offer their time, insight and expertise.

I also highly encourage experienced geoscientists to participate as mentors. You will be amazed at how far a 15-minute phone call/an email/a word of encouragement/a gentle push towards a goal can go for a mentee. I truly hope that I can pay it forward and help to guide a student or a geoscientist-in-training towards their goals the way that Christine has guided me.

Christine, I cannot thank you enough for everything that you have done and continue to do for me. I have benefited tenfold by having a mentoring relationship with you and I look forward to continuing to grow as a professional with your guidance. Thank you for being my mentor. **APGO**



About Amber Blackwell, P. Geo.

Amber has been a member of APGO since 2012. She works as a geoscientist at Knight Piésold Consulting in North Bay, Ontario. Amber has over 5 years of experience conducting geomechanical, hydrogeological, geochemical, mine closure, and environmental site assessment projects in Canada, Mexico, Colombia, Africa, Argentina, Nicaragua and the USA.