

## Division of Professional Affairs (DPA) and AAPG Professional Women in Earth Sciences (PROWESS) Luncheon

**Date:** Tuesday, 24 April

**Time:** 11:30 a.m.–1:15 p.m.

**Location:** Grand Ballroom B

**Fee:** \$45

**Speakers:** Sally Benson (Stanford University, Stanford, CA) and Sharon Mosher (Jackson School of Geosciences, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX)

**Sally Benson**, Director of the Global Climate and Energy Project at Stanford University, will speak on *Following Your Convictions: Even When the Going Gets Tough*.

Policy decisions about energy and the environment often closely touch people's lives and thus are often the focus of angst, activism and alarm. Central to good decision making is access to high-quality scientific data and knowledge, which often requires new experimental data, models and ideas.

Three different examples of conducting policy-relevant research in the public eye spanning three decades will be presented.

Benson is a ground water hydrologist and reservoir engineer and has conducted research to address a range of issues related to energy and the environment. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and Climate Central.

**Dr. Sharon Mosher**, Dean of the Jackson School of Geosciences at The University of Texas at Austin, will speak on *Building a Diverse and Sustainable Geoscience Workforce*.

Geoscientists are needed to address societal needs more than ever, in the areas of energy, water, natural hazards, natural resources, climate, the environment, geological engineering and public policy. Yet the pipeline is not prepared to meet the predicted future demand for a robust geoscience workforce. A multidimensional, sustained effort to increase the number of students embarking on a geoscience career is critical.

Key elements in successfully increasing the number of students interested in geoscience careers will be discussed using successful examples to illustrate problems and solutions.

Mosher is the founder and past chair of GeoScience World, an international journal aggregation for geoscientists. She is currently President-Elect of the American Geological Institute.

