



CITATION

The winner of the 2016 Mentorship Medal is Valerie Jackson of the Northwest Territories Geological Survey, in recognition of her outstanding and continued mentorship of geoscience students and colleagues.

Ms. Jackson, a Project Geologist with Northwest Territories Geological Survey, epitomizes the criteria for the Canadian Federation of Earth Sciences Mentorship Medal, summarized as "excellence in mentoring over a sustained period of time." To her many colleagues and former students, she is an obvious choice for this national award and recognition. Valerie began bedrock mapping in the late 1970s in Ontario and Newfoundland, and by the early 1980s was running bedrock mapping projects in the Northwest Territories, which then included what is now Nunavut, for the Canadian Government. She has conducted remote northern mapping campaigns since that time and in the process has trained, mentored, and inspired well over 100 undergraduate and graduate students and colleagues who have served in her field crews. An exceptional geologist in her own right, she recognizes the exceptional opportunity that her project work provides for her field staff and has consistently sought to provide a unique and high-quality professional and personal experience.

As Valerie's numerous mentees attest, this decades-long exercise in experiential learning has positively shaped the way that the current generation of geoscientists in Canada and elsewhere conduct their profession. Geological mapping in remote northern field locations is a remarkably complex task that her students ultimately excelled at under her patient guidance and teaching. For many, it has been a life-changing experience. Valerie Jackson has an insatiable work ethic and a determined pursuit of excellence. Her lead-by-example approach is contagious and inspires others to learn and perform at a high level and to be excited about their work. At a difficult time for employment in the geosciences, the list of still-practicing professional geoscientists that Valerie has mentored attests to this. Perhaps most significantly, Valerie's mentoring style has inspired the next generation to mentor using a similar approach, ensuring a legacy of training and mentorship that will inspire future generations of geoscientists.