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Leslie North

Faculty Bibliography

Associate Professor & Interim Department Chair, Earth, Environmental, and Atmospheric Sciences, WKU
Director of Sustainability

Dr. North recently earned her doctorate in Geography and Environmental Science and Policy from the University of South Florida in Tampa. Since she was first exposed to karst science as an undergraduate student, Leslie has focused her collegiate and research activities to understanding and protecting these fragile terrains. During her master's thesis research, which focused on evaluating anthropogenic karst disturbances, Leslie reached the startling conclusion that both the general public and policymakers have a very limited understanding of karst terrains, resulting in widespread misuse of these landscapes. As a result, for her dissertation Dr North conducted the first holistic study of karst-related educational programs implemented in the United States and abroad, and the tools, techniques, and feasibility of educating the general public at karst attractions, particularly show-cave facilities. Through a large body of data collected from over 100 show caves worldwide, she was able to illustrate the existence of multiple missed opportunities and misconceptions about educational pursuits in informal learning environments that are ultimately hindering the pursuit of appropriate geologic education and encouraging erroneous measures of program success.

[Graduate Work](#)

[Presentations](#)

[Research Works](#)

[Sustainability Resources](#)

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[Informal Karst Education in the United States and Internationally](#), University of South Florida, 2011