Career Opportunities for Geology Students from a State Government Perspective

What is it like to work for state government? I am going to be graduating with a degree in the geosciences, what types of jobs are open to me? How do I apply? How do I get hired? What would a career in state government look like? Is working for state government right for me?

As a student starting to consider the options for graduation beyond life at the university, these are some of the questions that you may have and then some.

On January 29, 2018, Sara Pearson, CPG, a WMU alumni and geologist working for the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, will be presenting on the topic of working for state government as a geologist.

She will provide an overview of the governmental programs that serve the public in which geologists are involved. There are several opportunities for geologists to serve the public by working in the state’s programs. Examples include environmentally focused and petroleum geology in the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, or minerals management in the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The opportunities begin with internships (unpaid) and student positions (paid). That can be just the launching point for a career in state government where there may be opportunities to advance with professional growth and experience to highly specialized technically oriented positions or even management.

In addition to career opportunities, Ms. Pearson will present information regarding the structure of government and what the different classifications mean, how the application process works, and recommendations for interviewing techniques. Networking is also a critical part of the job search and career growth path.

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