



**VISITING
SCHOLAR
PROGRAM**

Dawn J. Wright



Chief Scientist

Environmental Systems Research Institute

Public Lecture Offerings

The Dive of a Lifetime to the Deepest Place on Planet Earth

In the summer of 2022, Dr. Dawn Wright became the first Black person of any gender to dive to the deepest spot on the entire planet – Challenger Deep – in the western Pacific Ocean, in collaboration with Victor Vescovo and his Caladan Oceanic team. During this lecture, Dr. Wright will talk about this dive—including the geospatial and imaging technologies used, discoveries from mapping this part of the world in history-making detail, implications of discoveries for future ocean science, and in general, why it is so vitally important to map and understand the ocean for our continued quality of life, regardless of where we live.

Swells, Soundings, and Sustainability...But "Here be Monsters"

Lecture on the history of how the ocean has been mapped with ships, satellites, and intuition, and how modern-day mapping systems have become increasingly intelligent. Wright will explore how these systems are changing what we measure and how we analyze, as well as the challenges in coping with both the over-abundance and paucity of data in the ocean, its multidimensionality, and how to make it accessible to the myriad audiences in great need of it. Case studies of the UN Decade of Science for Sustainable Development and a submersible dive to the deepest place on Earth will be presented.

THE PHI BETA KAPPA SOCIETY

VISITING SCHOLAR PROGRAM 2026-2027

Classroom Discussion Topics

- 1. Any of the above lecture topics.**
- 2. Straddling the Worlds Between Academia and Industry.**
- 3. Thinking Like a Geographer: How Everyone Can Take a Geographic Approach.**
- 4. "Fireside Chat" on the Present and Future of GIS, Including AI.**
- 5. Plate Tectonics: A Bit of History You've Likely Never Heard About and "Dispatches from the Field."**
- 6. Empowering Women and Students of Color in the Earth Sciences.**