

Rebecca Teed
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To the Committee:

I'm applying for the Herbert Reich Chair of Natural Science at Deep Springs College. I've heard about the college from friends of an alumnus and am impressed at the student-centered nature of the institution. As a student, I attended Williams College in the Berkshire Mountains of Massachusetts where I at least had the freedom to run a student organization and to apply for funding for activities without direct faculty oversight. In high school, I was part of an all-student board that enforced the honor code against cheating, and as a faculty member at Wright State, I was part of a mixed student/faculty/staff student conduct appeals board. In my experience, students can focus on important administrative tasks and handle many of them as fairly and as effectively as faculty members.

The academic and labor aspects of student life appear to be well-integrated. The students' work doesn't need to be done during class time, but it offers the students a change of pace from reading, writing, and discussion. One of the important challenges of the environmental education I do is to explain how nature connects to the fundamentals of human economics, such as farming, and why ecosystem services like pollination by wild bees and evolutionary problems like pesticide resistance must be considered. As a graduate of a liberal arts institution, I'm happy to see the diversity of courses available to the students.

My background is in environmental science, particularly biology, ecology, geology, and environmental science. Recently, I've taught courses on environmental science and society, Earth history, geology for teachers, climate change, and scientific writing. I've developed, assessed, and frequently rewritten curricula based on my educational research. My research interests include student learning, particularly content-knowledge gains and what can be done to improve them, and paleoclimatology (fossil pollen, charcoal, and diatoms preserved in lake sediments). Several undergraduate and two graduate students have worked on paleoecology projects under my supervision. As a committee member, I've written an accreditation report for a teacher-education program, developed a university-wide policy, helped negotiate a faculty contract, and directed a graduate program. I also served as Interim Chair of the Department of Earth & Environmental Sciences (EES) during the final year of its existence while Wright State University was shifting back from online to in-person classes (2021-2022).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Teed". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rebecca" and last name "Teed" clearly distinguishable.

Rebecca Teed