

2-18-2016

# A Case of High School Earth and Space Science Education in the Great Plains

Elizabeth Lewis

*University of Nebraska-Lincoln*, [elewis3@unl.edu](mailto:elewis3@unl.edu)

Jia Lu

*University of Nebraska-Lincoln*, [jialu@unl.edu](mailto:jialu@unl.edu)

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/dberspeakers>



Part of the [Curriculum and Instruction Commons](#), and the [Science and Mathematics Education Commons](#)

---

Lewis, Elizabeth and Lu, Jia, "A Case of High School Earth and Space Science Education in the Great Plains" (2016). *DBER Speaker Series*. 89.

<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/dberspeakers/89>

This Presentation is brought to you for free and open access by the Discipline-Based Education Research Group at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in DBER Speaker Series by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

## **Abstract for DBER Group Discussion on 2016-02-18**

### **Authors and Affiliations:**

Dr. Elizabeth Lewis, Associate Professor  
Jia Lu, Graduate Student  
Department of Teaching, Learning and Teacher Education  
College of Education and Human Sciences  
University of Nebraska, Lincoln

### **Title**

A Case of High School Earth and Space Science Education in the Great Plains

### **Abstract**

While U.S. high school students' access to Earth and space science (ESS) varies widely from state to state, nationally ESS content is the most neglected area of science education. States are in the process of formally adopting the Next Generation Science Standards, which have been carefully developed and articulated in conjunction with state educational leaders. However, researchers rarely address the challenge with which states, school districts, and teachers must grapple in order to enact ESS courses and concepts. This case study of one Great Plains state asks the questions: (a) *How do school districts provide ESS education at the high school level?* and (b) *To what degree is ESS being taught by out-of-field science teachers?* Findings from a two-phased approach (interviews and online survey) to investigating these questions will be discussed.