

Melinda Higley (Campbell)

Master of Science in Geology in 2009

Before coming to the University of Toledo, Melinda earned a Bachelor's degree in Geology and Earth Science from Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She came to the University of Toledo in the summer of 2007 and began her thesis research on the terrestrial sensitivity to abrupt climate changes related to glaciation recorded in the sand dunes of Northwestern Ohio.

After earning her Master's degree Melinda became a Wetlands Geologist at the Illinois State Geological Survey. In this position she was asked to monitor rehabilitated wetland regions to test how well they compared with healthy wetlands. She described the

position as hard work, but very rewarding. She claims that it was especially rewarding when the areas were not properly restored, rehabilitated, or protected because it became up to her to find out what these wetlands were lacking. After working in the field for five years, Melinda decided to get her Ph.D. and is currently working towards her doctorate in Geology at UIUC. Melinda recently presented on her research conducted with Dr. Timothy Fisher at the Geological Society of America's North Central conference, where she received a Publisher's Choice Award for her paper titled "A contemporary story of a historical Lake Warren strandline from Northwest, Ohio."



"My advice to students is to take on challenges, be humble, and always accomplish one more thing in a day than you think you are capable of. If you have any inkling that you might pursue anything science-related, take a statistics class!"

"The professors in the Department of Environmental Sciences were always willing to come out to do field work with us, while simultaneously helping us to develop independence with our research and critical thinking. I also enjoyed the ample opportunities to be a Teaching Assistant. Most importantly, as I entered the working world, I felt like a prepared and capable scientist."