

DEEP SPRINGS COLLEGE

DEEP SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA

Founded 1917

The Board of Trustees of Deep Springs is pleased to announce that Dr. Andrew “Andy” Zink will become the next president of Deep Springs College. He will assume leadership of the campus beginning with Term One on July 1, 2023.

Andy comes to Deep Springs after 16 years at San Francisco State University, where he is Professor of Biology and Chair of Hiring, Retention, Tenure, and Promotion. In addition to teaching a range of courses and holding several SF State leadership positions, he has received numerous research grants and awards. He has mentored close to 100 undergraduate and graduate students in his lab, the majority of whom are from groups traditionally underrepresented in the sciences. Andy has long been fascinated by the evolution of cooperation and conflict in animal societies. His scientific research focuses on the evolution of social behavior and disease ecology.

Some people fall in love with Deep Springs at first sight, our imaginations immediately captured by the idea of combining rigorous academics, labor, and self-government in an isolated desert valley to prepare for a life of service to humanity. Andy is one of those people. His passion for the Deep Springs mission is conspicuous. His intellect, experience, and temperament are what the college needs at this moment. My friends on the Board and I are very excited to work with Andy to sustain and strengthen Deep Springs in the years ahead.

Aron Fischer
Chair, TDS Presidential Search Committee

His most recent research concentrates on amphibian disease and microbiomes, and he is looking forward to future studies of the Deep Springs black toad.

Andy has a strong commitment to liberal arts education and the integration of science, the humanities, and practical work. As an undergraduate at Bowdoin College, he double majored in philosophy and biology, writing a prize-winning thesis on Wittgenstein and Quine, and conducting ecological research from an isolated island field station. This research led to two scientific publications and inspired him to obtain his PhD in Ecology and Evolution at Cornell University.

The Trustees were especially impressed with Andy’s long-held admiration of LL Nunn and his passion for the Deep Springs mission and its three pillars, combining physical labor with academic study in an atmosphere that encourages students to direct their own learning and to make decisions for themselves and the college. Andy notes that his hometown, and his grandparents’ farm where he worked as a young man, were quite close to the farm in Medina, Ohio, where LL Nunn grew up (also close to the hometown of ranch manager Tim Gipson). Andy has carried on his love of agriculture through post-doctoral research at UC Davis on integrative pest management and, more recently, his quarter-acre home garden.

Andy's mindfulness is striking. He will bring his whole self - head, heart, and hands - to Deep Springs. His compassionate presence will serve the DS community well as we continue our work of service to humanity.

Marina Hsieh, TDS Chair (2018-2022),
Member, TDS Presidential Search Committee

Andy was selected after an extensive national search process, led by a TDS Search Committee, to which many alumni and friends contributed. The Trustees thank everyone who gave much time and thought to this important decision.

Please join us in welcoming Andy Zink to the Deep Springs community!

Eric Swanson, DS65, Interim TDS Chair
Aron Fischer, DS95, TDS Vice-Chair



Dr. Andrew G. Zink

I remember with great fondness the excitement of having any opportunity to direct my own learning when starting college, and my confidence in and respect for Deep Springs students' ability to find consensus and make crucial decisions about the very structure of the college (faculty chosen, students admitted, distribution of labor) is high.

Andy Zink,
Incoming President, Deep Springs College

Please direct all questions to pressinquiries@deepsprings.edu