Kim Kastens (Ph.D. Scripps Institute of Oceanography, University of California at San Diego), an environmental scientist and 2009 winner of the American Geophysical Union’s national Award for Excellence in Geophysical Education, has recently been appointed to the EDC to serve as Distinguished Scholar and Principal Scientist in its Learning and Teaching Division. Kastens has more than 20 years of experience working at the nexus of science and education, most recently serving as a research professor of earth and environmental sciences at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University.

A widely published author, Kastens co-edited and contributed chapters to the 2012 book, Earth and Mind II: A Synthesis of Research on Thinking and Learning in the Geosciences. Earth and Mind II examines how geoscientists “use the human senses and mind to perceive, analyze, and explain the workings of the Earth system, and then builds on those insights to suggest how to help students master the thought processes of the geosciences.”

Kastens will oversee a portfolio of work spanning many aspects of science education. Two of her projects, both funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) Research and Evaluation on Education in Science and Engineering (REESE) program, include Making Meaning of Geoscience Data and Bridging the Gap between Tabletop Models and the Earth System.