Dr. Gierke has been a professor at Michigan Technological University for almost 17 years. Additionally all three of his degrees were earned at Michigan Tech. Recently, Dr. Gierke directs the Aqua Terra Tech (ATT) program that provides students a unique curricular pathway for developing and practicing technical and business skills in a multidisciplinary setting. ATT provides undergraduate students an opportunity to run a consulting company in groundwater investigations. Recently, students working with ATT have developed a watershed model for the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community and a water supply plan for a small Nicaraguan town. In an effort to partner with Detroit schools, Dr. Gierke developed a program under ATT to capture rain water and restore groundwater with the help of Detroit students at a science magnet school. According to one colleague, Dr. Gierke is co-creator of a state-of-the-art “subsurface remediation research laboratory” which allows students and researchers to better understand the permeation of contaminants into various sorts of soil compositions. Perhaps a notable testament to the value he places on advising students, Dr. Gierke lists as part of his accomplishments all of the students he advises.