

NEBRASKA WOMEN

STRIVE THRIVE EMPOWER MENTOR

A Conference for Nebraska Women in STEM

March 23, 2023

Graduate Hotel
Lincoln, Nebraska

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

	Ardis Ballroom	Scarlet Ballroom
7:30am - 8:30am	Registration/Breakfast	
8:30am - 8:45am	Welcome <i>Nebraska Women in STEM Team</i>	
8:45am - 9:30am	Mentoring Panel: <i>Dr. Agnes Lenagh</i> <i>Dr. Martha Garcia-Murillo</i> <i>Dr. Christal Sheppard</i> Moderator: <i>Joy Eakin</i>	
9:30am - 10:25am	Building Your Personal Board of Directors <i>Katie Brandert</i>	
10:25am - 10:35am	Break	
10:35am - 11:30am	Breakout Session 1: "Leadership Identity" <i>Dr. Susan Burton & Brooke Wells</i>	Breakout Session 2: "Leadership Agility" <i>Dr. Kelly Gomez Johnson</i>
11:30am - 11:45am	Break	
11:45am - 1:15pm	Lunch: <i>Welcome by NUtech Ventures and UNL's Office of Research and Economic Development</i> <i>Nebraska Women in STEM Awards</i> Keynote Presentation: <i>Emily Calandrelli</i>	
1:15pm to 1:45pm	Networking Break	
1:45pm - 2:35pm	Breakout Session 1: "Thrive by Growing Your Career Networks" <i>Dr. Susan Weller</i>	Breakout Session 2: "Challenge Your Comfort Zones, Live Your Best Life" <i>Susan Harris</i>
2:45pm - 3:30pm	"Recognizing Your Confidence" <i>Dee Oswald</i>	
3:30pm - 4:15pm	"Centering Your Joy Through Music" <i>Marisa Hattab</i>	
4:15pm - 6:00pm	Networking Happy Hour	

Meet the Speakers



Keynote Speaker: Emily Calandrelli

Emily Calandrelli is the host and co-executive producer of the hit Netflix series *Emily's Wonder Lab*. Each episode features Emily and a group of kid-scientists as they learn about STEAM through experiments and fun activities. Emily is also an Executive Producer and Emmy nominated host of FOX's *Xploration Outer Space* and was a correspondent on Netflix's, *Bill Nye Saves The World*.



Emily, who was named to Adweek's "11 Celebrities and Influencers Raising the Bar for Creativity in 2017", is also an accomplished writer and speaker on the topics of space exploration, scientific literacy, and equality. Her chapter book series, *The Ada Lace Adventures*, centers around an eight-year-old girl with a knack for science, math, and solving mysteries with technology. The second book in the series, *Ada Lace: Sees Red*, was included in the National Science Teachers Association's list of best STEM books for 2018. The third book, *Ada Lace: Take Me To Your Leader*, was part of the initiative from NASA and CASIS, Story Time from Space where the book was launched into space and read by an astronaut aboard the ISS to an audience of kids. The fifth and most recent book in the series, *Ada Lace: and the Suspicious Artist*, was released in February 2019. All five books in the series are available at Barnes and Noble as well as Amazon. Earlier this year Emily released a children's book, *Reach For The Stars*, an uplifting book about love and shared discovery.

Emily frequently gives talks about the importance of science literacy, the benefits of space exploration, and the challenges for women in STEM careers for clients like Google, Pixar, MIT, Texas Instruments, as well as dozens of K-12 schools across the nation. Her first two TEDx talks, "I Don't Do Math" and "Space Exploration Is The Worst," have garnered over one million views on YouTube.

Prior to her work in science communication, Emily attended West Virginia University, where she received a Bachelors of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering and Aerospace Engineering, and MIT where she received two Masters of Science degrees, one in Aeronautics and Astronautics and the other in Technology and Policy. Through her work, she wants to make science relatable, easy to understand, and more exciting today than ever before in history.

Meet the Speakers



Katie Brandert

Kathleen (Katie) Brandert is the Assistant Dean for Public Health Practice and an assistant professor of Health Promotion at the College of Public Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center. Katie makes an impact with her skills in leadership development, coaching, and facilitation. Her areas of focus include training on leadership identity, building teams, public speaking, and the journey towards equity, diversity and inclusion. Katie is a sought after facilitator for difficult conversations, culture work, and organizational strategy. Katie earned her bachelor degree in Communication Studies and Psychology, a Master of Public Health, and will graduate with her PhD in Leadership Studies (May 2023) from the University of Nebraska system.



Dr. Susan Burton

Dr. Susan Burton is an Assistant Professor of Practice at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communication teaching leadership courses in the online "asynchronous" environment with the focus of helping students develop as leaders within a diverse and complex world. Dr. Burton's research and teaching interests are drawn from experiences studying and living abroad; leading within non-profit and governmental organizations; and earned degrees in International Studies, Human Geography and Leadership studies. She believes that understanding organizational system dynamics, and amplifying the ways that individuals are positively motivated to make individual and communal change, is a way that every interaction can be a new opportunity to elevate our community and learn from one another. The greater the diversity the stronger the potential of positive impact.



Joy Eakin

Joy Eakin is the entrepreneurship program manager at NUtech Ventures, the technology transfer office for UNL and UNK. In this role, she is working to expand entrepreneurship training and support that NUtech offers to campus researchers, including training, funding, networking, mentoring, or other resources.



Joy leads the Nebraska I-Corps program, a part of the National Science Foundation (NSF) Great Lakes I-Corps Hub. She is particularly passionate about reaching women in STEM with these programs and helping them see themselves as inventors and entrepreneurs.

Joy has a bachelor's degree in international studies and English from UNL, as well as a master's degree in English Literature from Queen's University Belfast. Outside of work, she loves to travel, visit museums, read, and entertain two spirited cats.

Meet the Speakers



Dr. Martha Garcia Murillo

Dr. Garcia-Murillo is the Dean of the College of Information Science and Technology at University of Nebraska Omaha. With expertise in institutional, behavioral and information economics, she focuses her work on the impact of information and communication technologies (ICTs) on society. Her research has explored the impact of ICTs on the creation of new businesses, the informal economy, corruption and employment.



She has published close to 100 papers, reports, chapters, and edited books. She has consulted for the World Bank, the International Telecommunication Union, Canada's IDRC and the US State Department. She received a Fulbright research fellowship at Barcelona Institute of International Studies (IBEI) in Spain where she looked at the impact of technology on employment.

Dr. Kelly Gomez Johnson

Kelly Gomez Johnson is an Associate Professor of STEM Education at the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO). She serves as a PI/Co-PI on various STEM education projects attracting over \$5.5 million since 2016 focused on both student and faculty access and excellence. Teaching and mentoring are her "Why" as a former high school math teacher and instructional coach, and in 2021, she was awarded UNO's campus-level Excellence in Teaching Award. She currently serves and empowers students and faculty as the inaugural STEM Leadership Fellow for UNO's STEM TRAIL Center and leader of UNO's Women in STEM (WiSTEM-pronounced "WEE-STEM") organization.



Susan Harris

Susan L Harris retired from University of Nebraska Extension in 2022 after serving as the Rural Health, Wellness, and Safety Educator where her main focus was education and research about sleep and stress. She has a 16-year history of education, liaison, and administrative work in health, wellness, and safety. Susan's education includes a bachelor's degree in Family and Consumer Sciences in Business, as well as a master's degree focused on Health and Human Performance – Gerontology. Her goal is to shake up typical beliefs about stress and wellness while having a positive impact on participants' potential for living a joyful existence.



Meet the Speakers



Marisa Hattab

Marisa Hattab is a passion filled advocate for mentorship, survivorship, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. She currently serves as the Douglas County Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer. She is intentional about ensuring all people are treated with dignity, respect, and acceptance, and are not just merely tolerated but fully embraced. As a survivor of domestic violence herself, she uses her DEI and mentorship lens to help survivors, women, and youth to stand in their power, take ownership of their stories, and leverage their experiences to change their lives. She currently sits as Board Chair on a new emerging non-profit called Mom Power Inc. which focuses on empowering working mothers, a board member of the Nebraska Coalition for Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence, and many other community volunteer roles.



Dr. Agnes Lenagh

Agnes Lenagh, Ph.D. joined Streck in 2017 and currently serves as the company's business development and intellectual property analyst. In her role, Agnes leverages business insight extracted from patent and scientific literature to develop IP strategies that further the company's business objectives. Prior to Streck, Agnes worked at as a licensing professional at UNeMed Corporation, the technology transfer entity for the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Agnes has a passion for making science accessible and building long term strategic relationships. She's also advocated for equal opportunities in diverse and inclusive environments throughout her career. She is an active member of the Licensing & Executives Society and serves on Streck's Diversity & Inclusion Council. Agnes holds a Ph.D. in pharmacology and experimental neuroscience from the University of Nebraska Medical Center, and a B.S. degree in biology from the Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico.



Dee Oswald

Dee Oswald is vice president of Kiewit's corporate quality program — a role that implements and oversees the company's operational quality standards and processes across North America. She received a Bachelor of Science in Construction Management with honors distinction from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Dee joined Kiewit in 1997 as a field engineer before quickly advancing into leadership roles such as superintendent, project manager, and sponsor on projects in Nebraska and Hawaii.



Dee has led numerous industry leadership seminars for experienced professionals and youth, focusing on coaching women and minorities to discover their confidence to unlock their potential.

Meet the Speakers



Dr. Christal Sheppard

Dr. Christal Sheppard has over three decades of science, intellectual property law and policy experience covering a large proportion of the IP ecosystem. Her experience includes serving as chief counsel of patent and trademarks in the United States House of Representatives, as the first Director of the first USPTO Regional Office, as a member of the Administration's Public Patent Advisory Committee, and in the International Trade Commission's General Counsel's Office. Currently she is a Lecturer at University of Nebraska College of Law, served as a Distinguished Fellow at the Nebraska Governance and Technology Center, and Chair of the AIPLA legislation committee. In her spare time, she is a world traveler and adventurer. Dr. Sheppard's educational background includes an M.S. and Ph.D. in Cellular and Molecular Biology from the University of Michigan and a J.D. from Cornell University Law School.



Dr. Susan Weller

Dr. Susan J. Weller is the Director of the University of Nebraska State Museum and Professor of Entomology. She is internationally recognized for her research on the evolution of tiger moths.

Susan began her University career at the University of Minnesota in 1993 as an Entomology faculty member and curator of insects at the Bell Museum. She became the first woman director of the Bell Museum of Natural History in 2008. Susan served in various volunteer and leadership roles for the Entomological Society of America, which culminated in serving as its President in 2017. She remains actively involved on the Society's ethics and rules committee. In fall of 2015, she joined the University of Nebraska-Lincoln as museum director and second woman to lead the institution.



Brooke Wells

Brooke Wells is a doctoral student, leadership studies scholar, and teacher. She is passionate about developing leadership skills in students and community members. She earned her M.S. in Leadership Education in 2021 from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where she continues to study leader identity. Currently, her research focus looks to understand how retirees maintain an identity of a leader outside of the workplace.

Dedicated to diversity and inclusion within leadership spaces, she was named the 2020-2021 Promising Graduate Student Leader through UNL's DEI Impact Awards.



Thank you to Our Sponsors



Networking Prompts



Make the most of the Nebraska Women in STEM conference by connecting with the many attendees who represent Nebraska's STEM industries.

- What is a great resource that has helped you professionally?
- What network have you found helpful here in Nebraska?
- Who is your go to person for enabling women in STEM?
- What STEM events would you like to see?
- What is your most interesting scar?
- What fictional family would you most like to join?
- What movie do you wish you could watch again for the FIRST time?
- Who's the most interesting Disney character?
- What was the most unique style or fashion trend you ever embraced?
- What super power would you want?
- What famous person would you want on your team during a Zombie Apocalypse?
- What is the best kitchen gadget?
- What is the best piece of advice you've ever gotten at work?
- Imagine you no longer have to work, how would you spend a Tuesday?
- What was the worst job you ever had?
- How would you describe your job to a 5 year old?
- What was your first job?
- What is something you did at work that no one noticed?
- What is a current trend that you just don't understand?
- What is a weird food you have tried? Would you eat it again?
- What reality show would you want to be on?
- If you could have an unlimited supply of one thing for the rest of your life, what would it be?
- Imagine you could teleport anywhere right now, where would you go and with whom?
- Would you rather live 100 years in the past, or 100 years in the future?

About Nebraska Women in STEM

The mission of Nebraska Women in STEM is to provide opportunities for Nebraska's professional women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) to develop professionally, make connections, and promote policies that increase the number of women in STEM.

To do this, we are working to:

- Address industry workforce shortages and diversity challenges by providing awareness and education and advocating for women in STEM
- Create more career and leadership opportunities for women in STEM by providing professional development opportunities
- Connect professional women in STEM through networking and mentorship opportunities

The inaugural Nebraska Women in STEM conference is part of our commitment to reduce barriers and provide professional development opportunities for women in STEM careers across Nebraska.

More information and upcoming events can be found at NebraskaWomeninSTEM.com.

**Nebraska Women in STEM is a partnership between
Bio Nebraska and Nebraska Cures**

