

THE LAWRENCE HALL OF SCIENCE

ASCEND K-5: Project Team

Daniel Alcazar-Roman, Executive Director, Instructional Materials

Daniel works on the research and design of instructional materials and assessment models. He started his career as an elementary and middle school bilingual science teacher in Houston. He spent twelve years as a district science supervisor in Texas and Virginia. Before joining The Lawrence, he led the design and development of the new NGSS state-level assessment system for the District of Columbia. Daniel has worked in science education reform efforts, and supported teams working on PK-12 national and international projects.



Suzy Loper, Director, Learning Design Group

Suzy has worked at The Lawrence in instructional materials design and research since 2006. Prior to that she was a middle and high school science teacher, and worked at the Exploratorium. Suzy has served as a PI on numerous federally or foundation-funded research projects and has led the development of widely adopted high-quality instructional materials. She received her Ph.D. in Education in Math, Science and Technology from the University of California, Berkeley, and her B.S. in Physics from Yale University.



Vanessa B Lujan, Director

Vanessa Lujan, Ph.D. is Director of the Center for K-12 Science, leading statewide, regional, and local capacity-building efforts for fostering inclusive K-12 science learning and equity-driven systems change. She is a member of the Science Steering Committee of the California Mathematics, Science, and Computer Science Partnership and her research expertise includes understanding the intersection of ethnic and gender identity as it relates to science teaching and learning. Vanessa has a Ph.D. and M.A. in Science Education from the University of Texas at Austin.



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Rebecca Abbott, Professional Learning Lead

Rebecca partners with districts and instructional leaders, and designs and facilitates professional learning experiences, to support implementation of research-based science instructional materials and approaches. Prior to joining The Lawrence in 2012, Rebecca was an elementary teacher and site-based instructional coach in San Francisco Bay Area public schools for over 15 years, focusing on literacy, multilingual learners and multi-tiered systems of supports.



Meredith W. Moran, Assistant Director

Meredith has worked on elementary science instructional materials design and research, with a specialization in literacy integration, since joining The Lawrence in 2015. Prior to this role, she was a Kindergarten teacher in California public schools and worked in early literacy and language development research. Meredith received her M.A. and Ph.D. in Curriculum Studies and Teacher Education, with a Literacy Studies emphasis, from Stanford University.



Leslie Stenger, Senior Professional Learning Specialist

Leslie has been on the Professional Learning team at the Center for K-12 Science since 2017. She facilitates and designs experiences that build the capacity of instructional leaders to provide high quality professional learning that supports the implementation of research-based science instructional materials. Before joining the team at The Lawrence, Leslie spent 19 years working in the Berkeley, CA Public Schools as a middle school math and science teacher and assistant principal.



Shannon Wachowski, K-12 Partnerships Manager

Shannon focuses on understanding the field of K-12 science education and how The Lawrence can support addressing challenges. Prior to this role, Shannon led teams of educator reviewers in evaluating science instructional materials as the Principal of Science at EdReports. Shannon further developed her appreciation for K-12 science education as the Science Consultant at the Wyoming Department of Education and as the Academic Outreach Coordinator at the University of Wyoming. She also spent 14 years in the classroom as a high school science and math teacher in rural Colorado schools.

