



UNC GREENSBORO



RISE NETWORK



2025-2026

Supporting STEM Education and Research at UNCG by facilitating faculty networking, professional development, and public outreach.



RISE NETWORK

Contents

To Our Stakeholders _____	3
2025-2026 RISE Network Programming _____	6
2025-2026 RISE Speaker Series _____	8
2025-2026 Community STEM Festivals _____	10
2025-2026 Photos from RISE Events _____	12
Science Everywhere: Dr. Steven Nils Ulosevich RISE Speaker Series _____	22
Associated STEM Education and Research Activities _____	26
Proposed Action Items for 2026-2027 _____	28
The RISE Network: Advancing the UNCG Forward Together Strategic Plan _____	30
2025-2026 RISE Network Advisory Board _____	32
Units Integrated within RISE's Efforts _____	33

To Our Stakeholders

RISE NETWORK LEADERSHIP TRANSITION

Leadership of the RISE Network continues to evolve as commitments and workloads undergo transitions. Dr. Gwen Robbins Schug served as RISE Director in the Fall of 2025. In Fall 2025 after filling in Interim Director for Sarah Praskiewicz in Spring 2025. Dr. Schug set up an outstanding program for the beginning of the 2025-2026 year. RISE speakers were set up, and a series of workshop to initiate activities and support STEM were arranged. When Dr. Schug's continuation as RISE Director was no longer possible, Emeritus Professor Jerry Walsh was enlisted to follow through as RISE Interim Director for Spring 2026. Overall, this leadership team effectively carried out a high impact program for the RISE network.

In addition to changes in the RISE Director position, the Science Everywhere director, Dr. Pradyumna Pradhan, unexpectedly needed to leave UNCG in August of 2025 due to delays in renewing his immigration status. A Science Everywhere Leadership Team consisting of Jerry Walsh (Chemistry and Biochemistry), Sarah Apel (Nursing), Matt Fisher (School of Education), and Aaron Terranova (Kinesiology) stepped in to organize Science Everywhere. With the preliminary organization set up by Dr. Pradhan, Science Everywhere was an outstanding event that made a huge impact on UNCG and the community.

STRATEGIC HIGHLIGHTS

The RISE Network had a vigorous program in the Fall of 2025 that focused on networking and program development. The Spring of 2026 had a focus on outreach and community involvement. Major speakers were also part of each semester's program.

FALL 2025

September 24, 2025

RISE Network Event

Pitch & Plate: Developing Collaborations and Funding Proposal Ideas

Jointly sponsored by RISE and the College of Arts and Sciences Office of Research

Wednesday September 24 from 11:00-12:30pm at the Alumni House

Networking with Lunch Event

Leaders: Gwen Robbins Schug and Amy Adamson

This networking event brought together STEM researchers from multiple disciplines to a) inform others of each attendees area of expertise b) initiate discussions between multiple groups c) stimulate ideas for collaborative projects and d) discuss possible funding for ideas generated.

October 28, 2025

RISE Network Event

Broader Impacts in STEM Research and Funding Proposals: Where are we now, and where do we go from here?

Tuesday October 28 from 12:00-1:30pm in EUC Claxton Requested

Format: Panel Discussion with Joy Dismukes, Esther Leerkes, Kim Petersen, and Nadja Cech

Moderator: Gwen Robbins Schug

This program was designed to provide information to researchers who were preparing or planning to prepare proposals to support their efforts and provide collaborative input into addressing components related to broader impacts of their research projects.

November 7, 2025

RISE Network Event

Making Your Research Matter: Strategies for Outreach and Public Engagement

Friday November 7 from 11-12:30pm in Sullivan 103

Format: Workshop with [Dr. Allison Master](#) (U Houston Psychology Department)

Prof. Master led a discussion designed to support the initiation and execution of programs where scientists share their expertise with the general public in a variety of formats.

November 7, 2025

RISE Speaker Series

Countering Stereotypes to Boost Children and Adolescents' STEM Motivation: Who, What, When, and How?

RISE Speaker [Dr. Allison Master](#) (U Houston Psychology Department)

Friday November 7 from 3:30-5pm in Sullivan 200

Prof. Allison Master (U Houston Psychology Department) gave a seminar on how her research relates to the well known differences in attitude and interest in STEM in middle school and in following career trajectories.

SPRING 2026

February 11

RISE Speaker Series

“Geographic Landscape of Nuclear Energy in the 21st Century”

RISE Speaker **Dr. Lisa Marshall** North Carolina State University Department of Nuclear Engineering

Relying on her years of experience in teaching within a nuclear energy program and her leadership in the American Nuclear Society, Dr. Marshall presented an informative seminar on the historical use of nuclear energy in numerous applications, and potential for newer and safer technologies in nuclear energy uses.

February 11

RISE Network Event

Panel Discussion “Retention and Success in STEM: UNCG and Beyond”

Panel Members:

Dr. Lisa Marshall, Department of Nuclear Engineering at NCSU

Regina McCoy, Vice Provost for Student Success, UNCG

Malcolm Schug, Head, Department of Biology, UNCG

Rachel Thompson, UNCG Alumnus

The challenges faced by STEM educators and programs designed to overcome those challenges and to provide avenues to success for STEM students were discussed by Prof. Marshall, a leader of UNCG's STEM success program, a RISE board member who led multiple programs that led to outstanding success for students, and a participant in one of these programs.

March 29, 2026

RISE Network Event

Roundtable Discussion For Student Groups.

Presidents of six student groups:

Materials Research Society: Anna Sheets

Girls Who Code: Gloria Sukidi

Skeptical Chemists: Jasmin Grillo

Melanin in Medicine Zariah Johnson

National Society of Black Engineers: Joseph Osoh

SACNAS: Society for the Advancement of Chicano and Native American Scientists: Gaby Ruiz Valencia

To promote STEM learning on campus, RISE organized a roundtable discussion for a group of STEM-related student groups. The objective was to enhance and broaden STEM learning through communication and collaboration between these student groups.

April 11, 2026

RISE Community Outreach Event

Science Everywhere

Science Everywhere is the RISE Networks signature event. Initiated about 15 years ago, Science Everywhere involves up to fifty faculty and hundreds of students as UNCG opens the campus to thousands of visitors to allow them to participate in STEM activities, to visit multiple facilities at UNCG, and to learn how UNCG contributes to the community and to fundamental knowledge. An associated Science Everywhere event was the Star Party at the Three College Observatory where the UNCG astronomers and others provided an evening of outstanding science and sky observations.

May 23, 2026

RISE Community Outreach Event

Greensboro STEMfest

RISE provides outstanding support to the annual STEMfest organized by the Greensboro Chamber of Commerce and HondaJet. The RISE Network hosted several tables of activities to excite and inform thousands of attendees about applications of science.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The generous support of campus units as well as community and industrial partners allows RISE to carry out its programs. Major support for speakers and workshops comes from the Office of Research and Engagement and the academic units of the College of Arts and Sciences, School of Nursing, School of Education, School of Health and Human Performance, Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology, Department of Mathematics, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Department of Biology, and Department of Computer Sciences. The Dr. Steven Nils Ulosevich family is graciously recognized for their support of the speaker series in Dr. Ulosevich's name. Community and industry partners who support outreach programs include Labcorp, Silicones, Inc., and the Central North Carolina Section of the American Chemical Society.

LOOKING AHEAD

In 2026-2027, RISE anticipates continuation of its strong speaker series and workshop programs to lead initiatives related to STEM teaching and learning. Two nationally prominent speakers are lined up, including Dr. Marilyne Stains, Professor of Chemistry at the University of Virginia as a Fall 2026 speaker, and Dr. Tom Holme, Professor of Chemistry at Iowa State University and editor of the premiere *Journal of Chemical Education*, as the Dr. Steven Nils Ulosevich Speaker in Spring 2027. A series of workshops to promote cross-discipline community building and collaboration among the various UNCG units and departments will be offered, including the **Pitch and Plate** workshop that was so successful this past year. RISE continues to build toward developing external grant proposals to enhance STEM initiatives on campus. The RISE community is well-positioned to do this. RISE will also continue to make an impact on the local community through its highly visible outreach program UNCG **Science Everywhere** and through participation in the Greensboro citywide **STEMfest**.

Sincerely,

Gwendolyn Robbins Schug

Gwen Robbins Schug

RISE Director, Fall 2025

Jerry Walsh

Jerry Walsh

RISE Interim Director, Spring 2026

2025-2026 RISE Network Programming

The RISE Network is committed to transforming STEM education and research by embedding principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion at their core. This year's programming provided faculty, students, and the community with critical tools, frameworks, and inspirational examples to build a more equitable and inclusive scientific future.

FALL 2025

September 24

RISE Networking Event

Pitch & Plate: Developing Collaborations and Funding Proposal Ideas

Jointly sponsored by RISE and the College of Arts and Sciences Office of Research

Coordinators: Gwen Robbin Schug and Amy Adamson

This networking event brought together STEM researchers from multiple disciplines to a) inform others of each attendees area of expertise b) initiate discussions between multiple groups c) stimulate ideas for collaborative projects and d) discuss possible funding for ideas generated.

October 28

RISE Networking Event

Broader Impacts in STEM Research and Funding Proposals: Where are we now, and where do we go from here?

Panel Discussion: Moderator Gwen Robbins Schug

Joy Dismukes- Director, Office of Sponsored Programs

Esther Leerkes- Associate Dean of Research, School of Health and Human Sciences

Kim Petersen- Dean, Lloyd International Honors College

Nadja Cech- Professor, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

This program was designed to provide information to researchers who were preparing or planning to prepare proposals to support their efforts and provide collaborative input into addressing components related to broader impacts of their research projects.

November 7

RISE Networking Event

Making Your Research Matter: Strategies for Outreach and Public Engagement

Workshop with [Dr. Allison Master](#) – University of Houston Psychology Department

Prof. Master led a discussion designed to support the initiation and execution of programs where scientists share their expertise with the general public in a variety of formats.

Spring 2026

February 1, 2026

RISE Networking Event

Panel Discussion “Retention and Success in STEM: UNCG and Beyond”

Panel Members:

Dr. Lisa Marshall, Department of Nuclear Engineering at NCSU

Regina McCoy, Vice Provost for Student Success, UNCG

Malcolm Schug, Head, Department of Biology, UNCG

Rachel Thompson, UNCG Alumnus

The challenges faced by STEM educators and programs designed to overcome those challenges and to provide avenues to success for STEM students were discussed by Prof. Marshall, a leader of UNCG's STEM success program, a RISE board member who led multiple programs that led to outstanding success for students, and a participant in one of these programs.

Each panel member discussed issues related to student retention and success from their particular perspective. Visiting RISE Speaker Lisa Marshall discussed the issues from her perspective as an officer in the American Society for Engineering Education and as chair of the working group Building a Pipeline of STEM Professionals. Dr. Marshall's perspective of student success in engineering brought rich new ideas for those attending. Dr. Marshall emphasized the importance of getting students involved with programs in their field, such as a summer residential program and industrial field trips. Regina McCoy discussed initiatives from an administrative perspective with UNCG programs that support STEM students. Malcolm Schug talked about funded programs like STAMPS and URISE (grants that were the outcome of RISE initiatives) and how they contributed to outstanding STEM student retention and success. Rachel Thompson is a UNCG alumnus who benefited from the UNCG programs identified by McCoy and Schug.

March 29, 2026

RISE Networking Event

Roundtable Discussion For Student Groups

Presidents of six student groups:

Materials Research Society: Anna Sheets

Girls Who Code: Gloria Sukidi

Skeptical Chemists: Jasmin Grillo

Melanin in Medicine Zariah Johnson

National Society of Black Engineers: Joseph Osoh

SACNAS: Society for the Advancement of Chicano and Native American Scientists: Gaby Ruiz Valencia

To promote STEM learning on campus, RISE organized a roundtable discussion for a group of STEM-related student groups. The objective was to enhance and broaden STEM learning through communication and collaboration between these student groups.

RISE is encouraging these student groups to share information about activities and events that they hold. Each group was asked to share 1) the favorite activity their group presents each year 2) an activity their group holds that is likely to be of interest to other STEM student groups. Participating groups were Girls Who Code, Society of Skeptical Chemists, Materials Research Society, Melanin in Medicine, National Society of Black Engineers, and Society for the Advancement of Chicano and Native American Scientists. After presentations by each group, lively interactions occurred with enthusiasm for future interactions. RISE will continue to promote and support the participation of student STEM groups in campus STEM events. The interaction and collaboration between campus STEM groups will enrich the learning experience of those involved.

2025-2026 RISE Speaker Series

The goal of the RISE Speaker Series is to bring nationally recognized experts in STEM research and instruction to UNCG. The Speaker Series helps stimulate conversations and generate new ideas around STEM education and research at UNCG. The Speaker Series reaches a broad audience, including UNCG faculty, postdocs, administrators, staff, undergraduate and graduate students, and community members. The Speaker Series is supported by funds from the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), the School of Education (SOE), the School of Health and Human Sciences (HHS), and the Office of Research and Engagement (ORE). A generous donation from the Steven Nils Ulosevich family allows us to bring in additional speakers. We would like to thank all the funders for making the RISE Network Speaker Series a success.

Below is a list of the speakers for the 2025-2026 RISE Speaker Series. We continue to seek speakers from diverse backgrounds (e.g., discipline, academic/non-academic, gender, race/ethnicity, and other dimensions of diversity) as part of our mission to in STEM.

November 7: RISE SPEAKER SERIES

Co-sponsored by the Department of Psychology

Speaker: Dr. Allison Master, University of Houston

Talk Title: Countering Stereotypes to Boost Children and Adolescents' STEM Motivation: Who, What, When, and How?

Hosted by Stuart Marcovitch, Department of Psychology

Co-sponsored with the Departments of AAADS, WGSS, Chemistry & Biochemistry, and English; the Lloyd International Honors College, the Humanities Consortium, and the Medicinal Chemistry Collaborative.

Dr. Master addressed how many girls lose motivation in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields as they progress through secondary school. Stereotypes that girls are less interested than boys in STEM emerge early and contribute to gender disparities. Dr. Master presented studies that documented the existence of interest stereotypes among thousands of diverse children and adolescents in Grades 1-12, with negative consequences for girls' interest, sense of belonging, and participation, especially in computer science and engineering. Her studies have revealed both causes and consequences of these stereotypes. She also shared findings from a new intervention that boosted middle school girls' enrollment in coding classes.

February 11: RISE Speaker Series

Speaker: Dr. Lisa Marshall, North Carolina State University

Talk Title: "Geographic Landscape of Nuclear Energy in the 21st Century"

Co-sponsored by the Department of Geography, Environment, and Sustainability

Hosted by Jerry Walsh, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry and Dan Royall, Department of Geography, Environment, and Sustainability

Through co-sponsorship by the RISE Network and the Department of Geography, Environment, and Sustainability, Dr. Lisa Marshall from the Department of Nuclear Engineering at NC State University presented a lecture on February 11 discussing how nuclear energy will fit into the portfolio of energy sources likely to be involved in supply the energy needs of the world in the future. Nuclear energy is definitely back in the spotlight as an alternative to fossil fuels. The benefits and risks associated with nuclear energy were discussed along with the potential for the radically different small modular reactor design. Various technical issues related to use of different energy sources were discussed, including resources, production, and byproducts. A lively discussion followed the lecture including interesting comments from an attendee who had experience with nuclear reactors on submarines.

April

DR. STEVEN NILS ULOSEVICH RISE SPEAKER SERIES

Because of numerous transitions in RISE leadership, a DR. STEVEN NILS ULOSEVICH RISE SPEAKER was not organized for 2026. However, a 2027 Dr. Steven Nils Ulosevich Speaker has already been scheduled. The speaker will be Tom Holme, Morrill Professor of Chemistry at Iowa State University and editor of the *Journal of Chemical Education*.

2025-2026 Community STEM Festivals

APRIL 11, 2026: SCIENCE EVERYWHERE FESTIVAL

Science Everywhere 2026: A Campus-Wide Celebration

Featuring collaborations with the Native American Student Association Annual Powwow, the Minerva Mobile Health Unit, the Star Party, and the Cardboard Robot Parade.

Our signature event transformed campus into a vibrant festival of discovery for an estimated 3,000 visitors. With over 50 hands-on activities, 200 volunteers, and participation from 20+ UNCG units, the event showcased the incredible diversity of STEM pathways in an inclusive, celebratory environment. *Featuring collaborations with the Native American Student Association Annual Powwow, the Minerva Mobile Health Unit, the Star Party, and the Cardboard Robot Parade.*

The 2026 campus-wide Science Everywhere festival was held at UNCG on April 11. The entire campus was transformed into an indoor and outdoor learning center with activity tents from North Drive to Spring Garden St., and buildings from the Weatherspoon Art Museum to Coleman Building open for activities. Many visitors entered the event through the 15 foot tall Spartan inflated helmet. Two hundred volunteers decked out in gold t-shirts were presenting activities or supporting visitors and staff. The festival included over 60 activity stations, nine open research labs, and the Minerva Mobile Health Unit. Maverick, the Nursing robot who interacts with the audience and demonstrates health systems and share health information and jokes was a hit in the extensive series of Nursing technology activities. Most activity stations included hands-on activities illustrating science in action ranging from anesthetizing crickets, bees in action, color changing slime, DNA origami, exploring your microbiome, fire and biodiversity, geometry in fabric, heart and lung function, indigenous polycultures, lights and eyes, microscopy of fungi, nutrition and you, reactions of dry ice, space weather, Triad wild, and a veggie meter for measuring skin carotenoids.

The exciting day was capped off with a Cardboard Robot Parade. Matt Fisher organized a team of students to do preliminary work by designing and building elaborate cardboard robots. During Science Everywhere crowds of visitors built their own cardboard robots. At the end of the day, these robots strolled across campus, and had a dance party on Foust Lawn.

The impact of Science Everywhere is notable from multiple perspectives.

- a) Faculty engagement with the community. Through participation in Science Everywhere, research and professional track faculty are able to share their expertise with the community. Ten research labs hosted visitors to communicate their expertise and explain how their professional work contributes to the community well being.
- b) Preparation of future leaders. Nearly 200 UNCG student volunteers participated in Science Everywhere. Through this experience, the students learn the importance of being part of a community, and how a community can generate an impact on the public that is powerful and forceful. They learn that their actions can have a profound effect on others by initiating with the public an interaction related to their field of study and experiencing the impact that they have. This is especially true with kids when the kids are amazed by an experimental outcome and the students realize that they are affecting a future generation.
- c) Community engagement. With an estimated 3,000 visitors to campus, Science Everywhere provides an opportunity for the campus to connect with the community. It's amazing to find that community members who live a short distance away have a limited knowledge of the campus and its resources. While larger universities get broad publicity, UNCG is often overlooked as a substantial contributor to scientific knowledge and enlightenment. With many of the visitors to Science Everywhere coming from the university neighborhood and the Greensboro area, this is a

great opportunity to engage with and inform the community about UNCG's mission and contributions.

April 17, 2026

Star Party at the Three College Observatory

Through the efforts of Emeritus Professor Steve Danford, RISE supported the presentation of the Star Party at TCO on April 17. This was a wonderful evening of science and community. The star of the party was the 31 inch reflecting telescope which went into action even before dark as the skies cleared and Jupiter appeared. A long night of viewing by visitors ensued. But the Star Party included much more. The fascinating science behind the Europa, a moon of Jupiter much like the earth's moon, was discussed in an outdoor slide show. Multiple telescopes were set up for viewing by the Greensboro Astronomy Club. A storyteller held the audience spellbound with Native American tales and stories about the sky and stars. The bonfire was absent due to dangerously dry conditions.

Co-sponsors and contributors included the Alamance County Recreation and Parks and Greensboro Astronomy Club.

May 23, 2026

STEMFest

Greensboro STEMFest: Expanding Our Community Impact

The RISE Network, as well as other UNCG organizations including the Office of Research and Engagement and Nursing's Minerva Mobile Health Unit, participated in the second citywide STEMFest celebration of science and technology. STEMFest is organized through the leadership of the Greensboro Chamber of Commerce and HondaJet. This is a huge community event aimed at inspiring youth with the wonders of science and technology in our world, and enticing them to pursue opportunities and educational experiences in STEM. Approximately 50 organizations that carry out STEM or support STEM education were represented. A stated attendance by the Chamber of Commerce was more than 5300. The RISE Network provided two tables outside of the arena and one inside of the arena each involving hands on activities that amazed visitors during the four hour event. Stations were constantly occupied as visitors analyzed vinegar, or changed copper pennies into simulated gold. The Minerva Mobile Health Unit was on display at STEMFest with representations of the facility's capabilities and a description of it's programs.

In spite of the rainy cold weather for the outside stations, the event was a huge success as UNCG and the RISE Network represented the important contribution that UNCG makes to the community both in education and in science.

2025-2026 Photos and Images from RISE Network Events

RISE Speaker

Prof. Allison Master, University of Houston,

Department of Psychology

November 7, 2025



RISE Network Speaker Series

SEMINAR SERIES

FALL 2025 SPEAKER



DR. ALLISON MASTER, PHD
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGICAL HEALTH AND LEARNING SCIENCES
DIRECTOR, IDENTITY AND ACADEMIC MOTIVATION LAB
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

Countering Stereotypes to Boost Children and Adolescents' STEM Motivation: Who, What, When and How?

Many students lose motivation in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields as they progress through secondary school, especially girls. One source of these gender gaps involves stereotypes associating boys with higher ability and interest in STEM. This talk will describe how such beliefs contribute to educational inequity in STEM. Stereotypes that girls are less interested than boys in STEM emerge early and contribute to gender disparities. My lab's studies documented the existence of interest stereotypes among thousands of diverse children and adolescents in Grades 1-12, with negative consequences for girls' interest, sense of belonging, and participation, especially in computer science and engineering. Our data also offer explanations for variation in women's underrepresentation and sense of belonging across STEM fields. Our experimental studies have revealed both causes and consequences of these stereotypes. I will also share findings from a new intervention that boosted middle school girls' enrollment in coding classes. The discussion will center on how educators can promote motivation in STEM for all students. Addressing stereotypes before they take root in the minds of children may remedy disparities and improve educational equity.

Hosted by Dr. Stuart Marcovich



PECASE
Presidential Early Career
Award for Scientists and
Engineers
Award Winning Scientist!

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7
3:30-4:30 PM, SULLIVAN 200
Parking available in the McIver Parking Deck

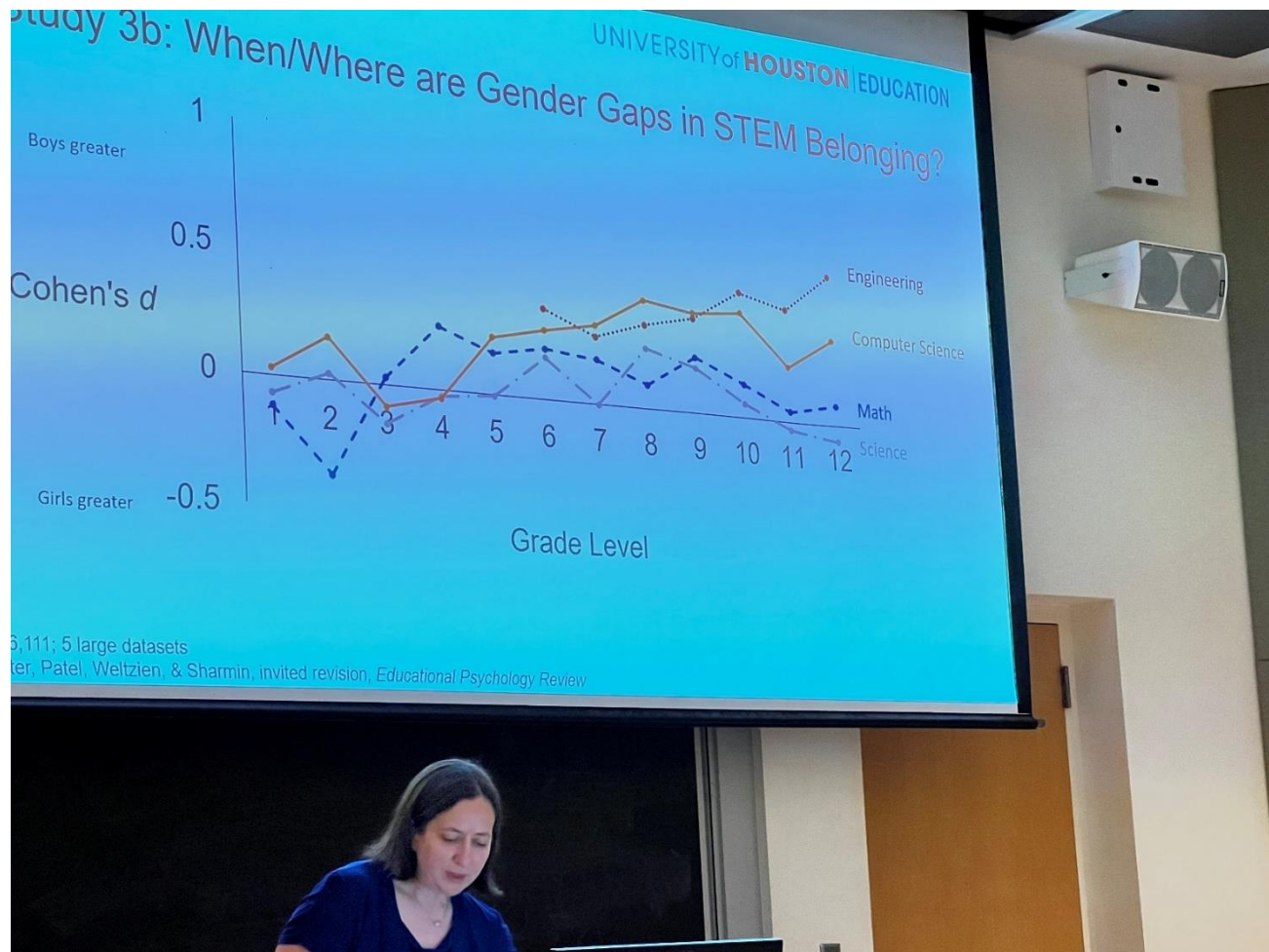


UNC GREENSBORO
Department of Psychology



**RISE
NETWORK**

RISE Speaker
Prof. Allison Master, University of Houston,
Department of Psychology
November 7, 2025



RISE Networking Event
Prof. Allison Master, University of Houston,
Department of Psychology
November 7, 2025



UNCG RISE Network presents

FALL WORKSHOP



DR. ALLISON MASTER, PHD
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGICAL HEALTH AND LEARNING SCIENCES
DIRECTOR, IDENTITY AND ACADEMIC MOTIVATION LAB
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

Making your Research Matter: Strategies for outreach and public engagement

Are you a STEM faculty member, post-doc, or graduate student?
Looking to level up your public outreach practice?
Are you interested in becoming more skilled in science communication?

THIS WORKSHOP IS FOR YOU!

Topics to be covered:

- Introduction to Science Communication
- Career paths in science and why public outreach and science communication matter
- Equity-focused research design, public engagement, and strategies for communicating your science

PECASE
Presidential Early Career
Award for Scientists and
Engineers
Award Winning Scientist!

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7
11:00-12:30 PM, SULLIVAN 103
Parking available in the McIver Parking Deck

UNC GREENSBORO
Department of Psychology

RISE NETWORK

RISE Speaker Dr. Lisa Marshall
Department of Nuclear Engineering
North Carolina State University

February 11, 2026



RISE Network Event, Panel Discussion
Dr. Lisa Marshall
Department of Nuclear Engineering
North Carolina State University

February 11, 2026



2026 Science Everywhere at UNCG



2026 Science Everywhere at UNCG



2026 Science Everywhere at UNCG



2026 Science Everywhere at UNCG





2026 Science Everywhere at UNCG

Star Party
April 17 at the
Three College
Observatory in
Alamance County



2026 STEMfest at the Swarm Arena on the Greensboro Coliseum campus



Dr. Steven Nils Ulosevich RISE Speaker Series

We were excited to host the Dr. Steven Nils Ulosevich RISE Speaker Series lecture as part of Science Everywhere. This lecture series was made possible by a generous gift to RISE by the Ulosevich family to honor Dr. Steven Ulosevich. Information about Dr. Ulosevich and his connection to UNCG can be found on the next page. Dr. Ulosevich's son provides an introduction to the Speaker Series, which is hyperlinked to the picture below.



April 2022 Intro for Dr. Ulosevich RISE Speaker Series

The Dr. Steven Nils Ulosevich RISE Speaker Series lecture for 2024-2025, The Dr. Steven Nils Ulosevich RISE Speaker Series lecture, by Dr. Zakiya Kennedy-Wilson, took place on April 11, 2025.

Science Everywhere: Dr. Steven Nils Ulosevich

RISE Speaker Series



Dr. Steven Nils Ulosevich passed away peacefully on June 3, 2020. Steve had an abiding love for learning, especially for all things science; a profound commitment to education and educators; and a deep appreciation for UNCG's mission and its impact on his life. Steve, along with his future wife Pam, graduated from UNCG in 1969 with a BA in Chemistry. His wife and children decided that the legacy of their beloved husband, dad, and grandpa could best live on by supporting STEM education through UNCG's RISE program. We proudly welcome their support in the form of the Dr. Steven Nils Ulosevich RISE Speaker Series.

Biography

Dr. Steven Nils Ulosevich, better known as Steve, was born in Tampa, Florida, in 1947. He demonstrated in his early years an interest in chemistry, biology, physics, and aeronautics. As his family prepared to move to Greensboro after his graduation from high school in 1965, Steve applied and was accepted at UNCG. He quickly became involved in the life of the university, participating in student government, playing on the first Spartan Men's Basketball Team, and loosely organizing the fledgling group of new men students with steak cookouts and pickup basketball games. He played volleyball on the winning Greensboro YMCA team, and he worked nights running the massive computer at the Federal Home Loan Bank in downtown Greensboro. He found time to relax as one of the town students who gathered in the basement of Elliott Hall.

After graduation from UNCG in 1969, Steve taught biology for a year at Grimsley High School before marrying his UNCG sweetheart and co-chemistry major, Pamela Locke, and joining the United States Air Force. He learned to fly both helicopters and fixed wing aircraft and taught the skills he had acquired to future AF pilots. Throughout his AF career, he incorporated his deep interest in and knowledge of the sciences to benefit pilots and their training: from the earth's topography to the pitch of the aircraft, from weather to physiological human factors, from survival techniques to laser eye protection.

Steve obtained his master's in business administration from Webster University in 1981 and his Ed.D. from the University of Southern California School of Education in 1991, both while he remained on active duty. He closed his professional career as Coaching Supervisor for South Carolina's Coalition for Mathematics and Science, a teacher-coaching model that has made a positive impact on teachers and students throughout that state.

Steve and Pam were selected as the first "Spartan Valentines" because of their "he said – she said" responses to the competition. And fifty years after his UNCG graduation, Steve volunteered to chair the Newsletter

Committee and organized a highly successful Military Panel for the 50th Reunion of the Class of 1969.

Steve was diagnosed in 1992 with sarcoidosis, an autoimmune disease that chiefly attacks the lungs. While he dealt daily with its impact, he taught many people about the disease and could often be found explaining the benefits of his portable oxygen machine to a caregiver or another oxygen user. He passed away peacefully on June 3, 2020, from the effects of his disease.

Associated STEM Education and Research Activities



Under co-Directors Jerry Walsh (Chemistry), Heather Rushforth (Biology), and Joe Wang (Chemistry) the Greensboro Regional Science Olympiad was hosted at UNCG on February 21, 2026 with the support of STEM faculty, staff, and students. The Science Olympiad tournament, a rigorous interscholastic competition that consists of a series of different hands-on, interactive, challenging, and inquiry-based events that are well balanced between the various disciplines of biology, earth science, environmental science, chemistry, physics, engineering, and technology. Around 700 middle and high school students and about the same number of coaches and families visit UNCG during this event. The RISE Network is an important resource for recruiting RISE members, STEM faculty, and STEM students to make hosting the Greensboro Regional Science Olympiad possible. The Greensboro Regional Science Olympiad is an outstanding opportunity for UNCG to exemplify its leadership in the regional STEM community, and results in fruitful interactions with local students and grades 6-12 STEM teachers. We anticipate that many teachers and students are impressed with the UNCG facilities and know of UNCG's dedication to STEM learning. Although data is unavailable, this event has an impact on recruiting for future UNCG STEM students.



U.S. National Science Foundation



NSF LSAMP: North Carolina Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation

The NSF-funded North Carolina Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (NC-LSAMP), based at North Carolina A&T State University, is a statewide alliance dedicated to increasing the number of students from historically

underrepresented minority groups who earn degrees in STEM fields. The program provides scholars with comprehensive support, including academic enrichment, research opportunities, faculty mentoring, and financial assistance, to foster their success and persistence in STEM. The University of North Carolina at Greensboro is a proud member of this alliance, led by RISE Board Member, Dr. Malcolm Schug (Biology Department). For more information, visit the UNCG LSAMP website: <https://nclsamp.uncg.edu/>



U.S. National Science Foundation

LSAMP supported 20 UNCG students, and 100+ system wide with stipends to participate in STEM enrichment activities from 2024-summer 2025 when the grant was administratively terminated. Many students benefited and it launched them into successful academic pathways - about 12 have graduated now and are in grad school, professional schools or jobs.



NSF S-STEM: STAMPS (STEM Achievement Through Meaningful Partnerships and Scholarships)

The NSF-funded S-STEM program at UNCG, known as STAMPS (STEM Achievement through Meaningful Partnerships and Scholarships), is designed to support high-achieving, low-income students

pursuing degrees in STEM disciplines. The program provides crucial scholarship funding alongside a robust support system that includes dedicated mentoring, cohort-building activities, professional development workshops, and career guidance. The goal is to reduce financial barriers and create a transformative educational experience that leads to academic success and career readiness. In the 2024-2025 academic year, the RISE Network has collaborated closely with the STAMPS program Principal Investigator and RISE Board Member, Dr. Malcolm Schug (Biology Department). RISE Network Director, Dr. Gwen Robbins Schug and Board Member, Minjeong Kim, have joined the leadership team to write a funding proposal to NSF that will extend the STAMPS program at UNCG for another term. For more information, read the UNCG Research Magazine article: <https://researchmagazine.uncg.edu/stamps/>

The STAMPS program has graduated 23 out of 40 STAMPS students. Another 12 students graduated in spring 2026. A new cohort of 13 are now participating and expect to graduate 2027-2028. Most STAMPS

Proposed Action Items for 2026-2027

Building on the success of the 2025-2026 academic year, the RISE Network will continue to serve as a central hub for fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, enhancing research capacity, and promoting excellence in STEM education at UNCG. Our proposed activities are designed to provide tangible support for faculty and students at all stages of their research and career development.

1. RISE Speaker Series and Specialized Workshops:

We will host a minimum of four high-impact events per academic year, structured to address the most pressing needs of our research community. This includes:

- **Continuing our successful "RISE Speaker Series"** to bring nationally recognized experts to campus. One speaker will be coordinated with the North Carolina Science Festival and UNCG's Science Everywhere program, focusing on community outreach.

The Fall 2026 RISE speaker will be Maryline Stains, a national leader in STEM education research whose programs have made significant impact on student success and improved teaching methodology. (Update September 9- The Fall 2026 visit by Prof. Stains has been cancelled due to a health situation that has arisen. The expectation is that the visit will be rescheduled in the future.)

The Spring 2027 Dr. Steven Nils Ulosevich RISE speaker will be Tom Holme, the editor of the Journal of Chemical Education, the premiere journal in this field. The significance of the Ulosevich speaker is represented by the section of this report on page 23.

- **Expanding our proven professional development model** based on the successful Fall 2024 series. This includes:
 - **RISE will develop and present two workshops in the style of last year's Pitch and Plate, where STEM education practitioners from UNCG will gather to exchange interests and ideas, and the Broader Impacts, where methodologies useful for developing and writing strong proposals are the focus.**

2. Science Everywhere, STEMfest and Community Outreach:

Following the outstanding success of the 2026 festival, we will participate in STEMfest in 2027 and continue to grow UNCG's signature Science Everywhere event. Priorities include:

- Increasing representation from all UNCG STEM disciplines, the arts, and community partners.
- Securing corporate sponsorships to expand programming, enhance accessibility for low-income families, and strengthen town-gown relationships.
- Integrating RISE speakers and workshop themes into public-facing activities to demonstrate UNCG's research impact.

3. Targeted Support for Funded Projects and Student Development:

RISE will continue its dedicated advocacy and support for programs that enhance STEM training and diversity.

- **Active promotion and advisory support** for applying for a new funding cycle to support the STAMPS program. UNCG's MARC U-STAR (U-RISE) and LSAMP programs were ended by new directives at NSF.
- **Facilitation of interdisciplinary grant proposals** focused on STEM education, building on past successes such as the NSF AISL proposal development team.
- **Fostering connections with national organizations** like AAAS to keep UNCG at the forefront of STEM research and education trends.

-

4. Foundational and Ongoing Initiatives:

The core mission of RISE will be advanced through continued commitment to the following:

- Advocating for the recruitment of STEM education and research faculty.
- Supporting new STEM faculty through mentoring, networking, and grant development assistance.
- Promoting grant proposals that attract and retain high-quality STEM students, particularly women and individuals from underrepresented groups.
- Facilitating the preparation of interdisciplinary grant applications to major federal agencies and private foundations.
- Maintaining a dynamic RISE Network webpage and social media presence to disseminate opportunities and celebrate achievements.
- Collaborating with the University Teaching and Learning Commons (UTLC), the Lloyd honor's College, the Office of Undergraduate Research and Creativity to promote evidence-based STEM pedagogy.
- Collaborating with the Office of Admissions and the Division of Student Success to improve our programming related to building the reputation of STEM education at UNCG
- Identifying and pursuing leadership opportunities for UNCG in regional STEM research and education partnerships with JSNN, Gateway, NC A&T, and local industry.
- Leveraging our alumni network to highlight STEM achievements, create internship opportunities, and promote campus activities.

The RISE Network: Advancing the UNCG Forward Together Strategic Plan

The RISE Network is a central engine for advancing the core pillars of UNC Greensboro's *Forward Together* 2025-2030 Strategic Plan. Our initiatives are strategically aligned with the university's mission to ensure student success, enhance research excellence, and achieve operational stewardship, directly supporting the ambitious targets set for 2030.

Pillar 1: Ensure Success and Upward Mobility for Students from All Backgrounds

Target: Achieve a 45% four-year and 65% six-year graduation rate.

The RISE Network is fundamentally committed to the success of every student. Our programs provide critical high-impact practices and support systems that directly foster retention, degree attainment, and career readiness, particularly for students from underrepresented backgrounds.

- **Goal 1.1 (Enhance Student Well-Being):** We build community and belonging through events like our annual **Science Everywhere** festival and the **Greensboro STEMfest**, which connect students' academic work to public engagement and joy in learning.
- **Goal 1.2 (Foster Best-In-Class Degree Attainment):** We actively support federal programs like **NSF LSAMP** which provide scholarships, cohort-building, and faculty mentoring to high-achieving, low-income students in STEM. These programs directly reduce financial barriers and create the supportive academic communities necessary for on-time graduation.
- **Goal 1.3 (Prepare Students for Meaningful Careers):** Our **Speaker Series** exposes students to diverse career pathways and provide invaluable networking opportunities with national experts and industry professionals. These experiences help students translate their academic knowledge into professional skills and career opportunities.

Pillar 2: Enhance Research Excellence and Creative Activity to Support Discovery and Societal Impact

Target: Achieve R1 Carnegie classification and \$70 million in research expenditures.

The RISE Network stimulates a culture of research excellence and interdisciplinary collaboration that is essential for reaching R1 status.

- **Goal 2.1 (Maintain and Elevate Research Excellence):** We bring nationally renowned scholars like **Allison Master (University of Houston Psychology Department)** and **Lisa Marshall (Nuclear Engineering Department, NCSU)** to campus, raising the visibility of UNCG research and inspiring our faculty and students to pursue high-impact, externally funded projects.
- **Goal 2.2 (Foster Collaborative Research):** The RISE Network's , fostering the cross-institutional collaborations that lead to significant publications and grant proposals.
- **Goal 2.3 (Address Community Priorities):** Our work is deeply community-engaged. **Science Everywhere** translates university research into public good for thousands of NC families, while our **Curriculum Workshop on Sustainability and Equity** directly tackles pressing societal challenges by equipping faculty to integrate these themes into STEM education.

Pillar 3: Achieve Operational Excellence and Responsible Stewardship

Target: Achieve a strategic reinvestment fund worth 5% of the annual operating budget.

The RISE Network operates as a model of efficiency and collaboration, leveraging resources across colleges and with external partners to maximize impact and return on investment.

- **Goal 3.1 (Strengthen Resource Management):** We exemplify strategic resource management by pooling funds from the **Office of Research and Engagement (ORE)**, the **College of Arts and Sciences (CAS)**, the **School of Education (SOE)**, the **School of Nursing (SON)**, the **Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering (JSNN)**, the **School of Health and Human Sciences (HHS)**, and STEM Departments alongside generous private donations, to support large-scale initiatives that no single unit could undertake alone.
- **Goal 3.4 (Elevate University Brand):** Events like **Science Everywhere** and **STEMFest** are highly visible public-facing events that significantly elevate UNCG's brand as a leader in accessible, community-engaged STEM education, directly supporting student recruitment and community partnerships.
- **Goal 3.5 (Support a Stabilized Enrollment Model):** Our support for programs like **LSAMP** and **STAMPS** helps attract and retain a diverse, high-achieving cohort of STEM students, contributing to a stable and robust enrollment pipeline aligned with state and national needs.

In conclusion, the RISE Network is not merely aligned with the *Forward Together* strategic plan; we are a dynamic and proven force for its implementation. Through our focused efforts on student success, research collaboration, and operational partnership, we are actively helping to build the transformative future envisioned for UNCG.

2025-2026 RISE Network Advisory Board

	Gwen Robbins Schug RISE Director, Biology		Amy Adamson, College of Arts and Sciences Office of Research		Sarah Apel, Professional Nursing Education
	Plaxedes Chitiyo, Geography, Environment, Sustainability		Jennifer Toller Erasquin, Public Health Education		Bob Henson, School of Education Office of Research
	Victoria Jacobs, Teacher Education & Higher Education		Minjeong Kim, Computer Science		Yirong Mo, JSNN Dean's Office
	Maia Popova, Chemistry & Biochemistry		Promod Pratap, Physics and Astronomy		Malcolm Schug, Biology
	Edna Tan, Teacher Education & Higher Education		Jerry Walsh, RISE Interim Director, Chemistry & Biochemistry		

Units Integrated within RISE's Efforts

College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Biology
Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry
Department of Computer Science
Department of Educational Research Methodology
Department of Geography, Environment, and Sustainability
Department of Kinesiology
Department of Mathematics & Statistics
Department of Nanoscience
Department of Nutrition
Department of Physics and Astronomy
Department of Psychology
Department of Public Health Education
Department of Teacher Education and Higher Education
Joint School of Nanoscience & Nanoengineering
Office of Admissions
Office of the Provost
Office of Research and Engagement
Office of Sponsored Programs
School of Education
School of Health and Human Sciences
School of Nursing
Teaching Resources Center/SELF Design Studio
Undergraduate Research, Scholarship and Creativity Office
University Advancement
University Communications