

Speaker Biosketches

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As co-director of Ethnography & Evaluation Research (E&ER) at the University of Colorado Boulder, she leads research and evaluation studies focusing on education and career paths in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields. Laursen holds a Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of California at Berkeley and B.A. degrees in chemistry and French from Grinnell College. Her particular research interests include the underrepresentation of women and people of color in the sciences, professional socialization and career development of scientists, teacher professional development, and organizational change in higher education. As a research associate at the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences (CIRES), she collaborated with scientists and K-12 teachers to communicate science effectively to students and the public. Previously, Laursen taught chemistry at Kalamazoo College and conducted atmospheric science research at the NOAA laboratories in Boulder. She is a faculty associate at CU's Center for the American West and a board member for Wildlands Restoration Volunteers.