

Emily Lehnardt, MS

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Professional Summary

Mission driven two-time award winning educator with 15 years of experience building engaging, research-based reading, science and STEM curriculum for K-12 educators and students. Experienced non-profit executive. Expertise advising and collaborating with numerous education specialists from LIGO, NASA and other organizations. Combines curriculum acumen with passion to collaborate with local and international partners to bridge the gap between education research and practice.

Core Competencies

Course Instruction	Formal/Informal Education	Canvas Development
K-12 STEM Outreach	Project Design/Development	Scholarly Writing
International Collaboration	Research Strategies	Online Teaching
STEM Research	Professional Development	Nonprofit Management
Course Development	Pre-service Supervision	

Professional Experience

Utah State University, Logan, Utah

Graduate Research Assistant | 2024-Present

- Taught online and in-person teacher education courses (Elementary Science Methods Courses, Classroom Management and Motivation) to pre-service elementary and secondary teachers.
- Supervised and mentored pre-service elementary teachers during practicum experiences, offering detailed feedback to support pedagogical growth.
- Lead author for international and national science education research conferences.
- Developed practicum support materials, including a comprehensive online guide to align expectations among students, mentor teachers, and university supervisors.
- Modeled the implementation of Utah SEED standards in curriculum and assessments.
- Successfully supported students in designing research-based curriculum for elementary classrooms.

Evergreen Jr. High, Salt Lake City, Utah

Science/STEM Educator | 2019-2024

- Developed and adapted science/STEM curriculum for diverse student populations using inclusive, differentiated instructional strategies.
- Led professional learning communities and collaborated with subject matter experts for school-wide STEM initiatives.
- Designed and analyzed formative and summative assessments to drive instruction and improve student outcomes.
- Fostered critical thinking and inquiry in science instruction through co-developed, standards-aligned lesson plans.
- Organized and led community events such as STEM Night to promote real-world STEM engagement.

Granite School District | Salt Lake City, Utah

Elementary Educator | 2008-2018

- Led MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports) initiatives and designed data-driven reading interventions.
- Collaborated across grade levels to design standards-based curriculum and assessments.
- Delivered instruction with a focus on student-centered, inclusive practices grounded in data analysis

Education

Utah State University | Logan, Utah

Phd Candidate, Curriculum and Instruction | May 2026

- *Dissertation*: “Examining Middle School Girls Self-Efficacy During a Design-Based Engineering Unit.”

University of Utah | Salt Lake City, Utah

MS Therapeutic Recreation | May 2007

Utah Valley University | Orem, Utah

BS Elementary Education | May 2004

Notable Activities, Awards, Certifications and Licenses

Associated Universities, INC(AUI) | Washington, DC

ASTRO ACCEL Associate | 2024-Present

- Internationally collaborated with education specialists from LIGO, JPL and other organizations to create culturally appropriate and research-based STEM curriculum.
- Communicated findings and future implications at ASTRO ACCEL summits in South Africa and Iceland to a global audience.

NASA | Pasadena, Ca

NASA Curriculum Collaborator and Ambassador | 2018-Present

- Collaborated with NASA Johnson Space Center to design hands-on, NGSS-aligned curriculum for 13,000+ students at Utah STEM Fest.
- Disseminated NASA resources to educators, libraries, and community partners as a NASA vetted volunteer presenter.
- Selected as a voluntary reviewer for “My NASA Data,” piloting content and advising curriculum improvements.

Associated Universities, INC (AUI) | Washington, DC

Astronomy in Chile Educator Ambassador | 2020-Present

- Created an astronomy-focused curriculum and participated in international collaborations.
- Engaged with U.S. and Chilean embassy leaders to promote cross-cultural STEM education.

Utah Women Astronomical Society | Salt Lake City, Utah

Founder and Executive Director | 2021-2024

- Led public outreach and astronomy education initiatives to increase female participation in STEM.
- Managed guest speakers, curriculum design, budgeting, and collaboration with local colleges and planetariums.

Clark Planetarium | Salt Lake City, Utah

Board of Directors | 2022-Present

- Advise on curriculum design and public programming to improve access and equity in astronomy education.

- Engage with policymakers and educators to advocate for improved STEM resources in public education.

Curriculum Outreach | Salt Lake City, Utah

Freelance Curriculum Writer | 2019–Present

- Designed K–8 and high school STEM curriculum for organizations such as the American Seed Trade Association and NASA.
- Simplified complex scientific concepts (e.g., CRISPR gene editing, space biology) into age-appropriate content aligned with Bloom’s Taxonomy and NGSS standards.

Certifications and Licences

- Elementary Education Grade 1-8 Teaching License
- NASA STEM Leadership Certification
- National Geographic Educator Certified
- Utah State Gifted Endorsement
- Utah State English Language Learners Endorsement
- Granite School District Reading First Educator
- International Space Foundation Teacher Liaison

Selected Awards

Utah Science Teacher Association 6th Grade Outstanding Science Teacher, 2021

EXCEL Teacher Award, 2017

Selected Panels

2023

- Governor Cox One Utah Summit, Panelist

Selected Talks and Keynotes

2025

- **European Science Education Research Association, Denmark,**
“Online Integration STEM Professional Development for Elementary Teachers”
- **ASTRO ACCEL Summit, Iceland**
“Cultural Responsive Astronomy”
- **Capitol Reef National Park, Heritage Starfest Keynote Speaker, Utah**
“Girls and Science”
- **American Astronomical Society Conference,**
“Women and Girls in Astronomy Program”

2024

- **ASTRO ACCEL Summit, South Africa**
“Girls and Astronomy Project”
- **Association of Science Teacher Education Conference,**
“Using Lessons from History to Guide AI Implementation in Science Classrooms”

2023

- **Utah Science Teachers Association Conference, Utah**
“NASA Engineering Design Process for Middle School STEM”

2022

- **FOX13 News, Interview**
“NASA Artemis Launch to the Moon”
- **KUTV News, Interview**
“NASA Artemis Launch to the Moon”

Conference Reviewer

2025

ASTE Reviewer

ASTE Thread Coordinator

ESERA Reviewer

2024

NARST Reviewer

Selected Publications

Lehnardt, E., Hadley-Hulet, A., Hansen, T., & Tofel-Grehl, C. (2025, August). *Online professional learning as a space to influence teacher pedagogical decision making and practice*. Paper presented at the European Science Education Research Association Conference (ESERA), Copenhagen, Denmark.

Tofel-Grehl, C., Lehnardt, E., Hadley-Hulet, A., & Hansen, T. (in review). *Online professional learning as a space to influence teacher pedagogical decision making and practice*. *The Journal of Teacher Education*.

Hadley-Hulet, A., Ellis, M., Moore, A., Lehnardt, E., & Longhurst, M. (2024). *Using lessons from history to guide the implementation of AI in science education*. *The Science Teacher*, 91(2), 29–34. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00368555.2024.2308315>

Lehnardt, E. (2022). James Webb Space Telescope and USU. *Utah STEM Magazine*.

Lehnardt, E. (2022). *Meet the James Webb Space Telescope, NASA's next-gen goliath*. *Astronomy.com*. <https://www.astronomy.com/space-exploration/meet-the-james-webb-space-telescope-nasas-next-gen-goliath/>

Lehnardt, E. (2021). NASA and STEM. *Utah STEM Magazine*.

Lehnardt, E. (2020). How a BYU professor uses STEM to work with NASA. *Utah STEM Magazine*.

(Complete List Available Upon Request)