

Laura Wasylenki, PhD

ABOUT ME

I am a Full Professor of Biogeochemistry becoming a coach for early-career researchers and an academic editor (working at my university part-time 2024-25, retiring in May 2025). For my next chapter, I have two aims: to support the mental well-being of graduate students, postdocs, and faculty and to empower early-career researchers to build excellent writing and speaking skills. I am also interested in designing and assessing interventions to improve graduate student well-being.

SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

- Alumna of FSP (2014 and 2023) and Post-tenure Pathfinders (2017)
- ICF-accredited Life Coach Certification and training in the Motivational Interviewing technique
- Training in Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction and just applied to Certified Workplace Mindfulness Leader course
- Twenty-five years of experience passionately and compassionately mentoring undergraduates, graduate students, postdocs, and early-career faculty, with emphases on mental well-being, career strategy, and healthy communication with advisors, mentors, colleagues, chairs
- Exceptionally strong ability and zeal for coaching graduate students, postdocs, and early-career faculty as they build stronger writing and speaking skills
- Personal experience as undergraduate, graduate student, short-term lecturer, postdoc, soft-money Research Scientist, Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, and Full Professor, with faculty experience at a small liberal arts college, a Big 10 university, and an R2 university

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

FULL/ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY Flagstaff, AZ | 2018-24
ASSOCIATE/ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, INDIANA UNIVERSITY Bloomington, IN | 2010-18

- Wrote internal proposal to secure funds for NCFDD institutional membership and FSP tuition for 40 faculty, recruited and registered participants, organized social events, assessed outcomes
- Organized and led writing groups for the faculty professional development office, fostered an atmosphere of mutual support, coached a few Assistant Professors one-on-one
- Taught two courses for graduate students with heavy emphasis on building writing and speaking skills, witnessed tremendous growth, and received exuberant evaluations
- Gave dozens of conference talks and seminars at other universities, earned reputation for exceptionally clear communication style, and was awarded a Distinguished Lectureship
- Managed successful research program: \$4M in federal funding, 32 peer-reviewed publications, >3000 citations, *h*-index=27, advised 6 postdocs, 7 graduate students, 9 undergraduates
- Taught 2-3 courses per year: prepared and delivered lectures and active-learning activities; taught or supervised the teaching of laboratory sessions; directed field trips, graded student work

Earlier positions:

Research Scientist at ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY Tempe, AZ | 2004-2010
Postdoctoral Researcher at VIRGINIA TECH Blacksburg, VA | 2002-2004
Assistant Professor at HARTWICK COLLEGE Oneonta, NY | 1999-2002

- Researched in three different specialties, wrote proposals and papers, presented at national and international conferences in geology, geochemistry, and environmental science, taught 13 different undergraduate courses
- Coached/advised other people's graduate students, to help them manage anxiety, pivot from setbacks, and communicate with advisors with more ease and professionalism

EDUCATION

Ph.D. | CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY | 1999

Geology

M.S. | CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY | 1995

Geology

B.S. | STANFORD UNIVERSITY | 1991

Geology and Symbolic Systems (artificial intelligence)