

# Kara Nuss

## Education

University of Chicago, Committee on Evolutionary Biology. Ph.D. (June 2009), M.S. (June 2005)  
University of Iowa, Biology. B.S. (May 2000)

## Positions and Appointments

Senior Instructor, Northeastern Illinois University, Biology (2020 – Present)  
Instructor, Northeastern Illinois University, Biology (2008 – 2020)

## Honors and Awards

NEIU Instructor Excellence Award (2025, 2012, 2009)  
Instructor Educational Leave (Spring 2017)

## Grant Related Activities

NSF Collaborative Research Grant - Equitable STEM Student Success and Persistence Through Leadership Development Contextualized in a Learning Assistant Program (2024 – 2027)

- **PI at NEIU:** Collaboration with faculty at Oakton College and Chicago State University to fund the creation of a Learning Assistant (LA) program at Oakton. The \$500,000 grant includes stipends for NEIU students who serve as LA mentors to Oakton students.
- **Facilitator:** Co-lead a six-session professional development workshop for Oakton faculty to prepare them to work with LAs. Participants develop a portfolio of lesson plans that incorporate active learning while also learning about inclusive teaching, culturally relevant pedagogy, and universal design for learning.

Department of Education Title V Grant - Creating Access to STEM for All (CASA) (2021 – 2025)

- **Learning Assistant Program Supervisor:** With grant funding, developed a Learning Assistant program to support CASA students taking introductory Biology and Math courses with traditionally high DFW rates.
- **Professional Learning Team (PLT) Member:** Participated in regular meetings that focused on improving course instruction by adopting culturally relevant pedagogy, developing self-assessments for faculty, and increasing cultural competence on campus.

Department of Education Title III HSI-STEM Grant - ARCOS: Advancing Research Career Opportunities in STEM (2021 – 2026)

- **Data Science Working Group Member:** Promote the Data Science minor at campus events, co-teach Fundamentals of Data Science course, support faculty interested in incorporating data science into their courses. (2022 – Present)
- **Student Activities Committee Co-Chair:** Developed a Student Ambassador program where selected students helped advertise events and opportunities focused on STEM workplace development. (2022 – 2023)

## Relevant Presentations and Publications

**K. Nuss**, M. Graber, S. Levi Blumer, H. Ansari. Expanding Faculty Adoption of Active Learning in STEM Courses at a Two-Year College through a Faculty Pedagogy Course and Collaboration with Learning Assistants. Chicago Symposium on Excellence in Teaching Mathematics and Science: Research and Practice. Oakton College, Skokie IL. (April 2025)

E. Bolterstein, S. Mungre, **K. Nuss**, E.P. Stoffregen. WRNexo is not required to maintain normal sex ratios in *Drosophila*: A CURE-Based Investigation ([article](#)). microPublication Biology. (2025)

K. Parikh, A. Saucedo, S. Helmus, M. McDonough, **K. Nuss**, A. Van Duzor, M. Sabella. Mini Workshop: Leveraging Learning Assistant (LA) Voice and Perspectives to Impact Instructional Delivery. ILSAMP Spring Symposium. Naperville, IL. (March 2025)

E. Erazo, **K. Nuss**, M. Sabella. An Introduction to the Learning Assistant Program. Engineering Plus Midwest Regional Hub Retreat. Naperville, IL. (September 2024)

Panel Discussion: Differences in Teaching Cultures - Demonstrating Fit. Pathways to College Teaching Careers Mini-Conference, University of Chicago, Chicago IL. (May 2023)

M. Moore, T. Page, J. Marcette, R. Campbell-Montalvo, G. McDowell, **K. Nuss**, K. Wiens. Workshop: Strategies for a More Inclusive Biology Classroom. National Association of Biology Teachers Professional Development Conference, Chicago IL. (December 2019)

**K. Nuss**. Beyond Grades: Alternate Methods of Assessment. Center for Teaching and Learning Faculty Brown Bag Session. Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, IL. (October 2019)

E. Bolterstein, **K. Nuss**, J. Robalino. The Biology of Skin Color: Using HHMI's free teaching materials to engage in evidence-based reasoning. Association of College and Biology Educators (ACUBE) Annual Meeting. Milwaukee, WI. (October 2016)

## Service (University, Departmental, Professional Organizations, and Community)

Biology – Instructor Departmental Personnel Committee (2025, co-chair: 2024, 2022, 2016)  
Faculty Institute Planning Committee (2024)

Parent Volunteer – Alexander Graham Bell Elementary Science Olympiad Team (2024)

Biology – Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (2021 – 2022)

Instructor Excellence Award Committee (2021, 2014)

Manuscript Reviewer – Journal of Microbiology and Biology Education (2020 – 2021)

## Selected Trainings and Certifications

Designing Learner-Centered and Equitable Courses, ACUE Five Unit Workshop (Summer 2025)  
Affordable Course Materials Workshop, NEIU CTL (Summer 2024)

Empowering Students to Use AI Effectively, ACUE Quick Study Course (Spring 2024)

DEI Digital Initiative Credential, NEIU CTL (2023 – 24 Academic Year)

Universal Design for Learning in Higher Education, CAST Hybrid Course (Summer 2022)

Designing Your Online Course, Quality Matters Training (January 2021)