



## Save the Date: CIRCL'23, Nov. 2-3, Alexandria, Virginia

Please mark your calendars to attend our convening of NSF PIs and others involved in research on emerging technologies for teaching and learning. CIRCLS has a history of highly interactive, engaging, informative, and thought-provoking [meetings](#) and CIRCLS'23 will seek to be the most rewarding meeting you attend in 2023. Why? Because CIRCLS'23 is uniquely focused on exploratory research with emerging technologies and it brings together a broad group of engaged participants to (a) understand what we are advancing and learning in this field (b) share expertise that can make all our projects better and (c) work together on common issues and concerns that every project must tackle.

To build the best possible meeting for every participant, we need your involvement. Here's how you can help:

- Volunteer for our program committee, [by contacting us](#), which determines the theme and overall structure of the meeting but does not have a lot of time-consuming review work. Program committee members get the inside scoop and build their identity as important community members. PC members can be PIs, co-PI, graduate students, early career scholars, practitioner partners, and others — we seek a PC that reflects the diversity of the community we seek to grow.
- Respond to our registration survey, coming in two months, where we gather details on what you want to share at the meeting and what you want to learn. We fine-tune the program based on the registration survey and this is the “secret sauce” that makes CIRCLS meetings so valuable to attendees.
- Mark your calendar to attend; suggest others who are not necessarily PIs of a NSF award but would add value to this community by [dropping us a note](#).

## CIRCLS Perspective

[Martina Rau](#) is the director of the Learning, Representations, & Technology lab and Associate Professor in Educational Psychology with an affiliate appointment in Computer Sciences at the University of Wisconsin – Madison. Her research interests include educational technologies, visualizations, and learning analytics. Find out more about her



work on learning with visual representations in educational technologies by reading her [CIRCLS Perspective](#).

## Expertise Exchanges

### [AI CIRCLS](#)

AI CIRCLS is currently using information about funded NSF awards to investigate AI expertise in the CIRCLS community and the role that it plays in emerging educational technology research. The outcomes of this work will elicit the broader themes of research within the RETTL portfolio, define a taxonomy for interdisciplinary research, and outline constructive directions for future work. [Stay tuned](#) to learn more about this endeavor.

### [Emerging Scholar CIRCLS](#)

[Emerging Scholar CIRCLS Mentoring Series](#): The one-hour small-group mentoring sessions are intended to foster informal and candid conversations among established scholars in the fields of computer and learning sciences. Please use this [form](#) to join the community and participate in the upcoming mentoring series.

### [Educator CIRCLS](#)

We are currently reading [Artificial Unintelligence: How Computers Misunderstand the World](#) by [Meredith Broussard](#) and can't wait to share what we learn about the inner workings and outer limits of artificial intelligence systems. Specifically, we are considering how our collective enthusiasm for applying technology in education can lead to poorly designed and implemented systems. The book discusses the need for including a "human in the loop," something [we have discussed before](#). The author also discusses the need to include more people with different backgrounds and abilities in the design of new systems. The role of ethicists, and the questions they ask, also need to be part of the design of future technologies.

**If you are interested in joining any of our Expertise Exchanges, [please fill out this form](#).**

## CIRCLS Project Spotlight

The CIRCLS Project Spotlight is an opportunity for RETTL projects to introduce their work and share information about their project with the CIRCLS community that they might not otherwise get to learn about. Below is a sneak peek of our [new project spotlight](#):

*James Lester, North Carolina State University, shares more about his NSF AI Institute for Engaged Learning: EngageAI ([#2112635](#)).*

Team: James Lester (Principal Investigator), Gautam Biswas (Co-Principal Investigator),

Jeremy Roschelle (Co-Principal Investigator), Cindy Hmelo-Silver (Co-Principal Investigator), Mohit Bansal (Co-Principal Investigator)

Driven by a vision in which AI supports and extends the intelligence of teachers and learners, the NSF AI Institute for Engaged Learning is designing, developing, and investigating AI-driven narrative-centered learning environments that create engaging story-based, collaborative problem-solving experiences.

### **What is the big idea of your project?**

The AI Institute for Engaged Learning emerged from a recognition of the significant potential of interactive narrative to support learning. There's this well-known phenomenon that story plays a prominent role in human cognition, and that it thus plays a prominent role in human learning. Story is known to be deeply engaging, an effect we know from multiple media types that utilize stories: we know it from film, we know it from drama, we know it from literature, and we know it from games. There's this real opportunity to leverage the power of story to create learning experiences that are engaging, hence the name "engage" in the AI Institute. Of course, we want students to learn, but we also want them to become so engaged in the learning that they become better learners, and story offers a very promising vehicle for creating engagement.

Continue reading the [full CIRCLS Project Spotlight](#) and make sure to check out our other [recent spotlights on our website](#).

## **Opportunities**

- **Jobs:** [Assistant Professor in Learning and Teaching with AI, School of Education, University at Albany](#): The [Department of Educational Theory and Practice](#) at the University at Albany, State University of New York, seeks an Assistant Professor (tenure-track) who conducts innovative research on learning and teaching with artificial intelligence and other related technologies. Their department has established strengths in teacher education, literacy, STEM education, learning sciences, and educational technology. A review of applications began on January 12, 2023, and will continue until the position is filled. [Read more](#).
- **Solicitation:** [NCER: Funding Opportunity for Education Technology Projects](#): The U.S. Department of Education and Institute of Education Sciences' Small Business Innovation Research Program (ED/IES SBIR) provides seed funding to for-profit small businesses and partners to develop and evaluate new education technology products. On January 12, 2023, ED/IES SBIR released three FY2023 solicitations: Phase IA, Phase IB, and a Direct to Phase II. The submission deadline for proposals under each solicitation is **March 13, 2023, at 11 a.m. ET**. [Read more](#).
- **Jobs:** [NSF Science Education Administrator \(Program Director\)](#): The Program Director(s) will work on one or more programs in DRL including but not limited to the Advancing Informal STEM Learning (AISL), Computer Science for All (CS for All), Discovery Research PreK-12 (DRK-12), EDU Core Research, and Innovative Technology Experiences for Students and Teachers (ITEST) programs. The Program Director(s) will also work on the Racial Equity Program and may work on

the Eddie Bernice Johnson INCLUDES Initiative. Application closing date is **February 13, 2023**. [Read more](#).

- **Solicitation:** [NSF: Arecibo Center for STEM Education and Research \(ACSER\)](#): NSF seeks proposals for the establishment of the Arecibo Center for STEM Education and Research (ACSER) at the original site of the Arecibo Observatory (AO). NSF seeks to evaluate proposals that would transition the existing AO site to the new ACSER, shifting the disciplinary focus from primarily on the astronomical sciences to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education and research more broadly. ACSER would serve as a hub for STEM discovery and exploration by building upon existing programs and opportunities currently in place at the AO site, while also creating and implementing new STEM education, research, and outreach programs and initiatives. Full proposal deadline is **February 28, 2023**. [Read more](#).
- **Jobs:** [Assistant Professor in Science Education at UC Santa Cruz](#): The Education Department at UC Santa Cruz is seeking an Assistant Professor in Science Education. They are looking for candidates with professional and research expertise in Science Education and a focus on learning and teaching in PK-12 schools or family/community/after-school settings. They seek a scholar with evidence of a promising research program; publications and extramural funding appropriate to the applicant's career stage; expertise in quantitative, qualitative, or mixed methods designs; and the capacity to develop externally funded research grants, research-practice partnerships, community-engaged scholarship, engagements with life or physical scientists or engineers on campus, or other collaborations. Applications are due on **February 16, 2023**, for full consideration. [Read more](#).

**Stay tuned and be on the lookout for the most up-to-date opportunities on our [website](#) and [Twitter](#)**

**Have some news or resources that you want to share with the community?**  
**Contact CIRCLS**

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