

The CALS Learning Lab: Powered by the SALT Center

This session will showcase the development, framework, and early outcomes of a collaboration between the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) and the SALT Center. The top three factors affecting student persistence and graduation in CALS are financial resources, physical and mental health, and academics. In recent years, the college has made significant investments in financial and wellness support for students. The third piece of the puzzle is addressed through the CALS Learning Lab: Powered by the SALT Center, an initiative that creates layers of direct and indirect academic support within the college. Using a multi-tiered systems of support framework, all students have access to a base level of information and support related to learning at the college level. Students who experience academic difficulties are referred to more targeted interventions that increase in intensity as needed. We will share project goals, measurable outcomes, and the framework used to structure the different academic supports and interventions. As this project is still a work in progress, there will be ample time for questions, thoughts, and discussion.

Laurel Grigg Mason

Laurel Grigg Mason is the Director of the Bartlett Labs, part of the SALT Center at The University of Arizona. She oversees data management and assessment within the department and collaborates with researchers around the world on projects that explore students with learning differences in college. Prior to this role, she worked directly with students and peer tutors. Her doctoral work in Higher Education focuses on college access and success for disabled students.



Shawnda Garcia

Shawnda Garcia is the CALS Learning Coach centrally located in the Forbes Building. She works directly with students, helping them to refine their learning skills and achieve their goals. Shawnda is a retired K-12 teacher and coach from Holland, Michigan.



Danielle Flink

Danielle Flink is the Student Success and Retention Specialist for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. She is currently earning her Master of Art's in Educational Psychology at the University of Arizona and earned a Bachelor of Science in Education from Kent State University. Her previous work includes program development, evaluation, and implementation in nonprofit settings primarily focused on youth development and volunteerism.



Keely Donovan

Keely Donovan is the Assistant Director of Bartlett Labs with the SALT Center. She supports the data management and assessment efforts of the department and works on collaborative projects to support college students with learning challenges. She has a background in teaching and academic advising and enjoys working to support student success.



Nancy Rodriguez Lorta

Nancy Rodriguez Lorta is the Senior Director of Advising and Student Services in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at The University of Arizona. She leads and manages academic advising and student support services strategy within the college. In partnership and collaborations with colleagues on and off campus she strives for access, equity and advocacy for students, academic advisors and student support professionals. Supporting students holistically in their personal and academic goals attainment journey is part of her experiences within higher education. *One impact at a time through constant gradual progress.*

