

DECADE SPEAKER SERIES presents

Laura E. O'Dell, Ph.D.

Associate Professor Department of Psychology
The University of Texas at El Paso

Dr. O'Dell is a Professor in the Department of Psychology at The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP). She received her Ph.D. in Behavioral Neuroscience from Arizona State University. She conducted post-doctoral training at Amethyst Technologies and The Scripps Research Institute, where she was also a staff scientist. In recent years, Dr. O'Dell's research program is focused on the neural mechanisms that promote tobacco use in vulnerable populations, such as adolescents, females, and persons with diabetes. Her laboratory combines neurochemical and molecular approaches with behavioral models to study the neural basis of addiction to substances, such as nicotine and alcohol. Her research program is supported by NIDA, and she leads a summer training program for undergraduate students to come to UTEP to conduct research with a faculty working in the area of neuroscience and drug addiction.



THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED: SCIENCE AS A PLATFORM FOR PROMOTING DIVERSITY

Professor O'Dell has a deep interest in promoting all students who want to pursue a career in science. As a Mexican-American female, she is particularly motivated to support students from diverse backgrounds, including minorities, women, low-income, and first generation students. She understands the importance of educating students at many levels to increase their cultural capital in order to succeed in an academic setting. Her research program is built on a strong student-mentor foundation, and in this presentation she hopes to provide insights into how effective mentoring can instill confidence and propel students towards success in graduate school. In her presentation, she will speak honestly from personal experience in hopes of creating an open discussion that will provide insights into the factors that propel students towards success in graduate school.

Friday, October 23rd at 10:30 AM
Location: Humanities Gateway 1030
RSVP at: [Click Here](#)



QUESTIONS?

Email: diversity@rgs.uci.edu

