



RUTGERS-NEW BRUNSWICK

Graduate School of Education



Honoring Queer and Trans Perspectives in Science Education

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University of Nebraska at Omaha

12:00pm–1:00pm
Wednesday May 6, 2026

Learning Sciences *Lunch & Learn*

**Connect with colleagues during this in-person presentation at the GSE (Room 124).
Lunch will be provided! Can't attend in person? Join us remotely via [Zoom!](#)**

This talk centers queer and trans perspectives in science education. It traces the roots of scholarship on gender and sexual diversity and considers how these histories shape current research and practice. It highlights emerging work that centers queer and trans cultural praxis as a source of knowledge, pedagogy, and methodological insight in science education, and attends to how these orientations open possibilities for more life-affirming approaches to research and practice. It also identifies strategies for developing scholarship and practice that engage queer and trans ways of knowing in more sustained ways.

Dr. K. "Ren" Rende Mendoza (they/them) is an Assistant Professor of STEM Education and a STEM TRAIL Faculty Fellow at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Their work draws on queer, trans, and justice-oriented perspectives to examine how science education is shaped by power, culture, and identity, with a focus on belonging, knowledge production, and the possibilities for more life-affirming STEM futures. Dr. Rende Mendoza serves as Program Chair and incoming Chair of the American Educational Research Association's Informal Learning Environments Research (ILER) Special Interest Group and on the Steering Committee for the NARST LGBTQ+ Research Interest Group.