

Mid-Career Achievement

Kara McClanahan

*Instructional Lab Supervisor
Biological Sciences*

A focused problem-solver with deep disciplinary knowledge, Kara McClanahan is an engine of success for the School of Biological Sciences and its people. Her responsibilities span the weekly preparation of experiments for dozens of lab sections, hiring and training of TAs, editing manuals, and course scheduling for all SBS classes.

Kara excels at managing complex projects, providing practical advice and a steady hand in the face of any challenge. During the unexpected transition to virtual instruction in 2020, she forged a path for student success by setting up plant growth observations in her kitchen, gathering experimental data for students to assess, and coordinating new computer simulations. This summer, she'll be spearheading the monumental task of relocating all of Heald Hall's classroom equipment.

Leading with empathy and respect, she facilitates solutions for instructional conflicts, mix-matched classroom facilities, mental health needs, and more. She is a strong advocate for the student experience and her input has been crucial during the redesign of instructional labs.

The wearer of many hats, Kara enriches our academic community with patience, humor, and grace.

