



Dr. Valerie Otero

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Professor of Science Education and Physics Education Research

Executive Director and co-founder of the Colorado Learning Assistant model

Co-Director of the Center for STEM Learning at CU Boulder

BIO: Valerie Otero has served on committees for the National Academy of Sciences, the National Task Force for Teacher Education in Physics, and NASA. Professor Otero's innovative models have spread throughout the world, reaching over 90 universities in the U.S. as well as in Singapore, Ireland, Japan, and India.

She has been awarded over \$17 million dollars in grants and gifts to support her projects and build her ideas. Otero has published broadly with research scientists as well as with K-12 teachers. She has received awards for her research and has been recognized nationally by the American Physical Society for her contributions to the physics community.

As a first generation college student, she has served as a role model for other Chicanas who want to make a difference. Otero's research investigates and builds leaning environments that engage students' hearts and minds through scientific experimentation, natural curiosity, and pure enjoyment of understanding our world.