

Promotion Conversation



Dr. Michelle Cook
Professor
Science Education
&
Associate Dean
Undergraduate Studies

Michelle Cook is a professor of science education and the associate dean for undergraduate studies. Her research has examined how students at the K12 and university level learn STEM content in a variety of formal and informal educational contexts. She has focused on the cognitive processes students use in different activities, whether it be interpreting science representations, problem-solving in engineering, or reasoning about code in computer science. Also, in her effort to align research, teaching, and grant activities, Michelle has studied the development of both pre-service and in-service science teachers in multiple areas including content knowledge, assessment, inquiry-based teaching, discourse, and representational competence. Recently, her focus has shifted more broadly to include examination of aspects of recruitment and preparation of pre-service teachers in teacher preparation programs and retention of teachers in the field.

Michelle began at Clemson in 2006 and transitioned to the associate dean role in 2017. She'll discuss her decision to begin a full-time administrative role, the resulting shift in her work, and the path for promotion to full professor which was awarded in August 2021.

