

Laura Franklin-Bio

2025

Laura Franklin received her bachelor's degree in psychology and her master's degree in higher education from Iowa State University. She attended college as a first-generation student from a limited income family and faced multiple barriers and challenges as an undergraduate student. Those experiences laid the foundation for her career in higher education and her unwavering passion for removing barriers and equalizing educational opportunities for all students. To that end, she has spent the past three decades serving first-generation, limited income, and disabled students at institutions throughout the country. Currently, she serves as the Director of Student Access at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. In this capacity she provides oversight and supervision for three TRIO programs, the Disability Access Center, the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs, the Wright Center for Veteran and Non-traditional Students, and the Doyle Center for Gender and Sexuality. Additionally, she is responsible for the campus' emergency grant program and serves as the institution's ADA coordinator. She is also a long-standing member of the institution's behavior intervention team as well as their bias incident team.

Laura is very proud of her work, both on campuses and in communities, which has contributed to preparing students to live and work in a more equitable, global society. In 2022 she was honored to receive the WI Board of Regents Diversity Award for her work supporting the basic needs of college students. In 2024 she was recognized as the UW-Platteville Woman of the Year for her contributions toward equalizing educational opportunity on the campus. With that said, some of her best work comes from working individually with students, sharing in high impact learning opportunities, running summer bridge programs, and hosting her weekly talking circle for students. When she is not at work, she can be found attempting to track down her two adult sons, supporting her partner's escapades as a jazz drummer, reading, walking, and seeking out shared laughter amongst friends and family.

Laura is a strong proponent of values-based leadership and believes her own long-held values of integrity, respect, authenticity, empathy, justice, and collaboration are in alignment with the mission and values of the University of New Mexico Accessibility Resource Center. She is very excited to be considered for this vital role and looks forward to the opportunity to get to know the campus community better during her visit to campus.