

Dr. Hala Schepmann

Dr. Hala Schepmann currently serves as chair of Chemistry and Physics at Southern Oregon University, a public, regional, primarily undergraduate institution.

As chair, Dr. Schepmann led the modernization of her program's curricular offerings, introducing interdisciplinary coursework that supported biology, computer science, environmental science, and mathematics majors; she successfully spearheaded her program's national re-accreditation; and she navigated her department through the COVID-19 pandemic, introducing a novel student proxy model and a Peer Leaders program into their first-year laboratory courses. And working with internal and external stakeholders, Dr. Schepmann led the creation of an endowed scholarship to support first year students.

Understanding that hands-on experiential learning is pivotal to student success, Dr. Schepmann served as the principal investigator on an NSF Major Research Instrumentation grant. And, in an effort to expand access to research opportunities, she led the creation of an endowed student research scholarship, an unrestricted memorial endowment, and an endowed research fund - enabling her program to launch the university's first faculty and student funded Summer Research Program which quickly grew to include all STEM programs and now also supports all faculty and students in the College of Natural and Social Sciences.

Now in her third appointment as chair, she has focused on development of public-private partnerships, offering regional employers access to workforce training and data acquisition and analysis opportunities and promoting student internship initiatives.

Dr. Schepmann's institutional leadership roles include serving as president of the faculty association and she is the co-founder of a faculty alliance that has spearheaded the creation and chartering of a Faculty Ombuds Office, implementation of automatic tenure and evaluation clock extensions, and development of faculty teaching and service awards. Dr. Schepmann also serves on her university's Board of Trustees and is now in her second consecutive term as the faculty trustee.

At the national level, Dr. Schepmann co-led ASCEND, a National Science Foundation ADVANCE Partnership project that created a network of faculty and administrators across 50 institutions in the Southeast, Midwest, and Northwest. ASCEND increased the advancement of mid-career women in STEM by providing education, training, and professional support for faculty to move toward promotion and leadership and support administrators to develop inclusive campus policies and cultures.

Additionally, her most recent efforts centered on transforming research enterprises at primarily undergraduate and emerging research institutions. As Co-PI of an NSF GRANTED project, she and her colleagues brought together teams of research administrators, faculty, and institutional leaders from 16 states and 58 institutions to elucidate and mitigate faculty research productivity barriers and research infrastructure challenges.

Notably, Dr. Schepmann's commitment to student success and science education is a direct outcome of her own educational path which began in Houston and has since alternated between Texas and the west coast. Dr. Schepmann graduated *summa cum laude* with a bachelor of science degree in chemistry from the University of Texas at Austin, a master of science in organic chemistry from University of California, Berkeley, and a doctorate in bioorganic chemistry from Rice University.