

Katie Wedemeyer-Strombel, Ph.D.

People-First Leader | Award-Winning Communicator | Online Education Expert

On a mission to create positive change in education. 12 years of professional experience, a record of accomplishment in online learning and higher education management and administration, and an interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Communication and STEM. The Predictive Index: Persuader, "a risk-taking, socially poised and motivating team builder" - StrengthsFinder Top 5: Communication | Ideation | Achiever | Individualization | Activator

✉ Katie.WedemeyerStrombel@gmail.com

☎ 805.403.9002

🌐 KatieWedemeyer.wordpress.com

🌐 [linkedin.com/in/krw-s](https://www.linkedin.com/in/krw-s)

WORK EXPERIENCE

Senior Manager of Academic Delivery | University Partner Lead (Promoted after 6 months)

Emeritus (Remote/Global)

01/2022 - Present

All responsibilities of Manager below, plus the following:

- Oversee a team of 10+ FT (4 direct reports) global, remote managers & 500+ PT, global remote contractors (1:1 student mentors): interview, onboard, and develop processes to maximize efficiency
- Lead team of 4 direct reports to the second highest overall program rating (4.38/5); the programs I directly owned had the highest average rating at (4.46/5).
- 3/3 eligible Direct Reports qualified for promotions after exceeding the performance metrics we set forth 6 months prior

Manager of Academic Delivery

Emeritus (Remote/Global)

06/2021 - 01/2022

- Primary course delivery resource and key contact for Learning Team, Partnership Team, B2B and Enterprise, and PT Learning Facilitators (1:1 student mentors). Own end-to-end all facets of course delivery for 15+ courses/36+ concurrent runs.
- Directly manage 50+ Learning Facilitators (1:1 student mentors): Accountable for all aspects of their performance including live sessions, grading, discussions, & all interaction with students
- Onboarding is slated for 3 months, but in less than 2 months I successfully owned end-to-end of 10+ programs, all University Partner communications, and interviewing and onboarding new PT Learning Facilitators

Learning Designer | University Partner Liaison Kaplan University Partnerships (Remote/Global)

06/2020 - 06/2021

- Lead Learning Designer on 11 Career Exploration asynchronous online courses with live student mentoring, balancing customer delight & stakeholder needs [🔗](#)
- Iterate process, structure, and teams to increase business capacity and output from 3 courses in year 1 to 15+ courses in year 2
- Develop community/customer-centric norms to improve collaborations w/ 5+ institutions (from Parsons Paris to Georgetown)
- Collaborate with professors in Engineering, Biology, Climate Change Advocacy, Fashion, Business, International Relations, Sustainable Design, 3D Printing, Global Health, Health Care, and more. [🔗](#)

SKILLS

Leading Through Change Remote People Management

Mentoring Training & Development Teamwork

Online Program Delivery Data Driven Decision Making

Cross-Functional Collaboration

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Leading Organizations and Change - MIT

MIT Management Executive Education (2022)

Reducing Polarization Dialogues [🔗](#)

University of Colorado, Boulder (2021)

Digital Classroom Webinar Series [🔗](#)

Kaplan (2020)

Collective Impact for Equity, Inclusion and Diversity

Ecological Society of America's Ecology Plus Program (2019)

Interdisciplinary Education: Engaging Students for Action

American Museum of Natural History (2017)

SERVICE

Graduate Student Advocate & Mentor

Twitter, Blog, Talks, Podcasts, Webinars [🔗](#)

Lead open, candid, & honest conversations about increasing integrity in higher education | Advise MS & PhD students | 9,000+ Twitter followers

Director of Development

PhD Balance [🔗](#)

Develop the online community & programs to support & train diverse grad students

Science Educator

K-12 classrooms, Universities, Non-profits [🔗](#)

Create & teach original education presentations (in-person and remotely)

AWARDS

Winner, "3 Min. Thesis" Communication Competition (2019) [🔗](#)

University of Texas, El Paso (~50 competitors)

Top Corporate Award, Online Content Development (2018) [🔗](#)

Kaplan - the Aztec Project "GED Play"

- On-Camera talent in 28 videos, held productivity record 8 videos/day
- Annotated & edited 28 PPT decks, peer-reviewed 10 storyboards

NSF Graduate Research Fellow (2014 - 2017)

National Science Foundation (12% success rate; most prestigious grant in U.S.)

WORK EXPERIENCE

Manager | Trainer | Online Tutor Kaplan Test Prep (Remote/Global)

12/2017 - 06/2020

- Managed 3 international programs that provided 1:1 student coaching; 35 direct & ~300 indirect disbursed coaches via Salesforce, Slack, Google Suite, & Zoom
- Designed & facilitated online education trainings: v/blogs, webinars, & Moodle modules - training 1000s of internal/external coaches
- De-escalated 100s of sensitive situations; collaborated with customer service & business leaders to balance parent & student satisfaction w/ coach well-being & company needs
- Increased teacher participation in online education webinars from 30-300+ in two months [↗](#)

Grad Student Coach | Communication Consultant Freelance [↗](#)

08/2012 - 07/2021

- Trained 200+ scientists to translate work to diverse audiences
- "Reshaping Your Career Through Change and Uncertainty", Special Guest Speaker on the Papa PhD Podcast [↗](#)
- "Healthy, Wealthy, and Wise: Choose a PhD Program That Will Support Your Personal and Professional Development", Special Guest Speaker on the Personal Finance for PhDs Podcast [↗](#)
- Beyond the Professoriate Career Coaching Webinar, Invited Guest Speaker
- Authored 4 advice articles for "The Chronicle of Higher Education" [↗](#)

Dept. of Communication Lecturer | Researcher University of Texas, El Paso

08/2012 - 05/2019

- Created, managed, & taught 6 university courses, including: Communication & Organizational Leadership; Professional Communication for Graduate Students; & Conflict Management
- Developed an empowering stakeholder engagement method that enhances collaboration, mutual learning, & leadership

Education Programs Developer & Manager Living Coast Discovery Center [↗](#)

02/2010 - 07/2012

- Designed, managed, taught 50+ programs to ~3,000 K-12 students
- Trained 100+ volunteers (ages 16-100), & 40 education staff members

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Interdisciplinary Environmental Science University of Texas, El Paso (2019)

B.S. Ecology, Behavior, & Evolution Minor: Spanish Literature | UC San Diego (2009)

LANGUAGES

English
Native Language

Spanish
Professional Working Proficiency

INTERESTS

Advocacy

Laughing

Baking

Dogs

Nature