

Dr. Corey Welch is the Founder and Director of the STEM Scholars Program at Iowa State University and a longtime facilitator and co-developer of the SACNAS Leadership Institutes. Trained as a vertebrate biologist, Dr. Welch conducted extensive field and museum research across the United States and Australia and previously taught biology and ecology at Haskell Indian Nations University.

Following his postdoctoral training, he transitioned into full-time student development, serving as a program coordinator for UC Berkeley's nationally recognized Biology Scholars Program. In 2016, he launched STEM Scholars at Iowa State, a high-impact initiative designed to expand pathways for student success in the sciences. Today, the program supports hundreds of current students and alumni and is grounded in evidence-based STEM education practices.

Dr. Welch is a frequent national speaker on strengthening participation and persistence in the biological sciences from undergraduate education through the professoriate. He served on the SACNAS National Board of Directors from 2016 to 2021 and currently co-advises the Iowa State SACNAS Chapter. His contributions have been recognized with the SACNAS Presidential Service Award and the ASN/SSE/SSB IDEA Award. He also remains actively engaged in service to his tribal community.