



Candidate Summary

Dean of STEM and Health Programs Position

Dr. Karen Knee

Dr. Karen Knee is a candidate for the position of Dean of STEM and Health Programs at Monroe Community College. She currently serves as Chair of the Department of Environmental Science at American University (AU), where she has also served as Associate Professor since 2019. With nearly 13 years at AU and experience as a department chair, Dr. Knee brings academic leadership, curriculum oversight, and faculty mentoring experience in a unionized, shared governance environment.

Dr. Knee has overseen BA, BS, and MS programs, developed new curricula, and managed course articulation for transfer students, including those from community colleges. She has led program assessment efforts for Middle States accreditation, participated in faculty hiring and review processes, and supported inclusive departmental practices through transparent governance and faculty engagement.

Her administrative experience includes managing departmental budgets, overseeing laboratory and office space, and supporting equipment acquisition and maintenance. She has secured and managed nearly \$500,000 in external grant funding for research, education, and outreach projects, and helped colleagues navigate grant-related administrative challenges.

Committed to student success, Dr. Knee has engaged in academic advising, program promotion, and direct advocacy for students facing institutional challenges. She has revised program requirements to increase accessibility and has supported students through advising, mentorship, and course development. Dr. Knee is especially interested in serving a diverse community college population and is motivated by the mission to provide affordable, high-quality education.

Her scholarship includes 32 peer-reviewed publications and presentations at national and international conferences. Her research spans water resources, environmental science, and pollutant transport, and she has served in editorial and reviewer roles for several scientific journals and grant programs. She has also held outreach roles with K-12 schools and science education programs.

Dr. Knee holds a Ph.D. in Geological and Environmental Sciences from Stanford University and a Sc.B. in Environmental Science from Brown University. She is fluent in Spanish and brings a background in mediation, conflict resolution, and science communication. Her professional memberships include the American Geophysical Union and the Society for Freshwater Science, among others.