

Citation of
Laura Roberts
For the
Romeo L. Moruzzi Young Faculty Award for
Innovation in Undergraduate Education

Professor Laura Roberts' work over the last 2 years to harness and leverage the use of emerging generative AI for the classroom has helped lead us toward more thoughtful and innovative use of a technology that many of us are hesitant to embrace. Her "work has helped to elevate the debate about how to train students to critically assess generative AI tools" so they will be able employ them legitimately and constructively while understanding their limits.

Professor Roberts has developed an online toolbox of concrete tools and a framework that can be used by all stakeholders to better assess when and how to use them appropriately implementing a concept she has termed 'Collaborate, don't Delegate'. It employs a stop light system to demystify determining what AI tools and approaches are appropriate. This has encouraged both faculty and students to embrace these new tools rather than avoiding them or camouflaging their use. Professor Roberts' toolbox has been employed by a wide array of institutional types since it was posted. Laura has become a sought-after speaker and has been invited by several institutions to present her work

Professor Roberts' willingness to innovate and employ generative AI tools in a constructive way in her classroom has been appreciated by her students. "She adapted her curriculum to the rapidly changing academic environment that Artificial Intelligence has brought in recent years. Instead of condemning the use of AI altogether, she found several different AI research tools that students may not have been previously aware of."

For her work to promote constructive use of generative AI within WPI and beyond, WPI presents the 2025 Romeo L. Moruzzi Young Faculty Award for Innovation in Undergraduate Education to Professor Laura Roberts.

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