Dr. Love has co-authored over 125 peer reviewed papers, chapters and reports; over 275 conference presentations; and a textbook on biological wastewater treatment. She has held leadership positions in organizations including the Water Environment Federation (WEF), the International Water Association (IWA), and the Association of Environmental Engineering and Science Professors (AEESP). She is a Fellow of all three organizations. Dr. Love is a licensed professional engineer (P.E.) in the state of Michigan and a Board Certified Environmental Engineer (BCEE).

Historically, engineering curricula and the research enterprise have remained highly focused and “inside the fence” of academic labs or under very controlled research settings in the field. But increasingly, we see are seeing rapid growth and interest in community-engaged research, learning, and outreach by engineering academics. Community-engaged work can occur in various forms: research in partnership with communities, service-learning oriented courses, and professional outreach through civic organizations or professional associations.

Despite their good intentions, however, academics typically receive little training for this third type of scholarship, and few processes, standards, or certification methods are in place to ensure that work in communities is done with mutual respect and benefit. IRBs only rarely consider this kind of work to be within their purview. During this talk, I will discuss the road I have taken to doing engineering research in communities, the principles we are applying in this work, and the limits to what we can do within the modern-day academy.