Laura Hirshfield is a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Lecturer and engineering education researcher at the University of Michigan, situated in the Chemical Engineering department. She obtained her BSE from the University of Michigan and her PhD from Purdue University, both in chemical engineering. She then transitioned into the engineering education research field with post-doctoral appointments at Oregon State University, Olin College of Engineering, and the University of Michigan. Her engineering education research involves investigating how students develop skills (such as creativity, communication, teamwork) and elements of affect (including confidence, sense of belonging, sense of inclusion) that they will need to succeed as an engineer, with a focus on how this development may differ based on a student’s gender. Most recently, as one of the College of Engineering’s first DEI Lecturers, Laura has been utilizing her engineering education research skills to explore metrics that represent how the DEI climate for undergraduate and graduate students is evolving and how it impacts their sense of belonging.

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