

Nicole Thomas

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Nicole Thomas is pursuing a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Previously, she has earned an M.S. in Curriculum & Instruction, Science Education, as well as a B.S. in Ecology & Evolution. Nicole's work draws from the intersection of science and education, and her research focuses primarily on understanding how scientific perceptions and alternative conceptions are formed. Her current research project focuses on the motivational factors and drivers associated with participation in citizen science activities, and what drives an individual to become involved with science outside of traditional academic or industrial pursuits. Her work has resulted in over 18 conference presentations and two first-author publications.

Outside of her academic endeavors, Nicole is involved with student and community advocacy, serving as the President of the Graduate and Professional Student Association at UNLV, as well as a Graduate Assistant for the undergraduate student government, CSUN. She hopes to further empower and support students as a liaison to local, state, and federal entities. Upon the completion of her Ph.D. program, she hopes to continue to work in the public education sector as a researcher and instructor. In her spare time, Nicole is an avid insect-keeper and amateur mycologist, working to celebrate science through everyday interactions and occurrences.