

**Name:** Becky Pengelley

**College:** Education

**Degree Program:** PhD, Curriculum & Instruction

**Say it in 6:** Supporting others supports us in turn

**Facebook Link:** [Facebook](#)

**Story:** Becky is a McKnight Doctoral Fellow pursuing a PhD in Curriculum and Instruction in Science Education in the [Florida State University College of Education](#), where her research interests center around urban agriculture as a meaningful context for youth development and agri-scientific learning. Becky is also the Executive Director of the [Palmer Munroe Teen Center](#) for the City of Tallahassee. The Teen Center serves as a central site for much of her research, as it offers a unique blend of educational classes, workshops, programs, and recreation activities for youth. As an informal learning setting, the Teen Center is able to provide experiential and student-centered learning opportunities. These types of experiences are recognized as critical in the current science education research because they help students develop an identity as competent learners of science with motivation and interest to learn more. As students engage in the Teen Center's garden, robotics club, video game development classes and other fun opportunities, they gain skills that support both their academic success and development as citizens who possess confidence, ability, and inclination to continue learning about issues, scientific and otherwise, that affect their lives and communities.

