Elizabeth "Liz" Karr, Ph.D., Associate Dean, Graduate College and Office of Postdoctoral Affairs and Associate Professor, Microbiology
University of Oklahoma
    Interview: Arrive on Wednesday, March 6 through Friday, March 8
    Campus Forum: Thursday, March 7, 3:30 – 4:30 PM, 010 Willard
    Reception: Immediately following

Dr. Elizabeth "Liz" Karr currently serves as the Associate Dean of the Graduate College and Office of Postdoctoral Affairs at the University of Oklahoma (OU). Additionally, she holds the position of Associate Professor of Microbiology in the School of Biological Sciences, where she has been recommended for promotion to Professor. Prior to assuming her role as Associate Dean, she served as Graduate Program Director for the Department of Microbiology and Plant Biology from 2017 to 2020. Dr. Karr's professional trajectory is marked by a consistent display of leadership and innovative contributions to graduate education.

As a first-generation student, Dr. Karr began her higher education journey by obtaining an associate degree. She further pursued her academic endeavors by earning a bachelor's degree in biology from Murray State University in Murray, Kentucky, followed by her Ph.D. in Microbiology from Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Subsequently, she conducted her postdoctoral research at The Ohio State University as a National Science Foundation fellow before joining the faculty at OU in 2007.

Throughout her administrative roles at OU, Dr. Karr has remained actively engaged in scholarly pursuits. Her research spans from ecosystem-level investigations of micro-organisms thriving in extreme environments to exploring the mechanisms by which microorganisms sense and respond to stress at the molecular level while conserving energy. Her findings have garnered recognition through publication in esteemed microbiology journals. Her research initiatives have been funded by the Department of Energy, National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, and Price Family Foundation, Inc.