Prof. Eric Gawiser
Biography

Eric Gawiser is a Distinguished Professor in the Department of Physics & Astronomy at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. He serves as the Faculty Director of the Aresty Research Center, which sponsors research experiences for 300 Rutgers undergraduates each year. Gawiser studies distant galaxies and black holes to understand how they form and to probe fundamental physics. He received a bachelor's degree in Physics and Public Policy from Princeton University in 1994 and earned his Ph.D. in Physics from U.C. Berkeley in 1999, specializing in theoretical cosmology. He began using the world's largest telescopes to study distant galaxies as a postdoctoral fellow at U.C. San Diego and later a National Science Foundation Astronomy & Astrophysics Postdoctoral Fellow and Andes Prize Fellow at Yale University. Since joining the Rutgers faculty in 2007, Gawiser has obtained grant support for his research from NASA, the Department of Energy, and the National Science Foundation, including an NSF CAREER Award. In 2018, he was named a Fellow of the American Physical Society (APS) for "exceptional accomplishments and leadership in the study of galaxy evolution and Cosmology."

Gawiser served as the Analysis Coordinator (2021-23) and Deputy Spokesperson (2017-19) of the thousand-member Dark Energy Science Collaboration (DESC) of the Vera C. Rubin Observatory's Legacy Survey for Space and Time (LSST). He was Principal Investigator of the MUSYC collaboration from 2003-2016 and has served as the Co-PI of the ODIN survey since 2020. Gawiser's 300 scientific publications have received over 27,000 citations, and he has given more than 100 invited talks at conferences and universities. His contributions to science policy include chairing the National Optical Astronomy Observatory Users Committee from 2011-2013 and serving on the APS Panel on Public Affairs from 2020-2023. Gawiser is also an accomplished teacher, mentor, and public speaker, including an appointment as an Associate of the Hayden Planetarium, the 2024 Rutgers School of Graduate Studies Award for Excellence in Teaching and Mentoring, recognition for Distinguished Contributions to Undergraduate Education from the Rutgers School of Arts and Sciences, and an active outreach program bringing physics demonstrations to underserved high school students in New Brunswick, NJ.