

Prof. Eric Gawiser

Biography

Eric Gawiser is a Professor in the Department of Physics & Astronomy at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. Gawiser studies galaxies, stars and black holes to understand how these objects 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 efforts 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 for "exceptional accomplishments and leadership in the study of galaxy evolution and Cosmology."

Gawiser is currently the Deputy Spokesperson of the Dark Energy Science Collaboration of the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope. From 2011-2013, he served as Chair of the National Optical Astronomy Observatory (NOAO) Users Committee, and he was Principal Investigator of the MUSYC collaboration from 2003-2016. Gawiser's more than 200 scientific publications have received over 10,000 citations, and he has given more than 100 invited talks at conferences and universities. He is also an accomplished teacher and public speaker, including an appointment as an Associate of the Hayden Planetarium, an Outstanding Teacher Award from the Rutgers Society of Physics Students, and recognition for Distinguished Contributions to Undergraduate Education from the Rutgers School of Arts and Sciences.