



SARAH KURTZ

Sarah Kurtz is a professor at the University of California, Merced where she is working both to help the university grow and to support the energy transition through a variety of studies, including a current study on long-duration energy storage. She fills the Distinguished Professor and Graduate Chair. Previously, she served more than 30 years at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden, CO.

Sarah is known for her contributions to developing multijunction, GaInP/GaAs solar cells, supporting the concentrator photovoltaic (PV) industry, and leading efforts on PV performance and reliability. Her work has been recognized with a jointly received “Dan David Prize” the “Cherry Award” which is designed to honor great teachers (2012), and the “The Clean Energy Education & Empowerment Initiative Lifetime Achievement Award” which recognizes individuals who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and accomplishments in the energy field, particularly in advancing clean energy, and have mentored others. She was elected to the NAE in 2020 for contributions to the development of GaInP/GaAs photovoltaic cells and leadership in solar cell reliability and quality.

Dr. Sarah Kurtz earned her BA in chemistry and physics from Manchester College and PhD in chemical physics from Harvard University