



Robert (Rob) Roeser PhD MSW has been named the Alice Valli Professor of Compassion and Ethics and the Director of Research for the Center for Contemplative Science and Compassion-Based Ethics. A joint appointment between Emory College of Arts and Sciences and the Rollins School of Public Health, we are delighted to welcome Rob to Atlanta!

The former Bennett Pierce Professor of Care, Compassion and Human Development in the College of Health and Human Development at Penn State University, Rob brings a wealth of experience to Emory. He received his Ph.D. from the Combined Program in Education and Psychology at the University of Michigan and he holds a master's degree in religion and psychology and an MSW in developmental psychology and clinical social work. He has held faculty appointments at Stanford University, Portland State University, and Penn State University.

In 2005 and 2016, Rob was a United States Fulbright Scholar in India; and from 1999-2004 he was a William T. Grant Faculty Scholar. From 2006 to 2010, he served as the Senior Program Coordinator for the Mind and Life Institute and a coordinator for the Mind and Life Education Research Network (MLERN) in addition to other roles there.

Rob is a thought leader in the emerging fields of contemplative education and developmental contemplative science. His research interests include adolescence and early adulthood; schooling from Pre-K to college/university as a central cultural context of students' academic, social-emotional, and identity development; and the role of mindfulness and compassion training for teachers and students. His recent work has focused on introducing mindfulness and compassion practices in for-credit, college courses for students to help them to manage mental health challenges and pursue their own vision of a life of flourishing.