

Botanical Society of America Teaching and Outreach Section
Annual Report for 2020-2021
Section Chair: Kyra N. Krakos
Section Vice Chair and Program Director: Benjamin Montgomery
Section Secretary/Treasurer: David Krayesky

1. Leadership: In 2021, Kyra Krakos continues her 3rd year as Chair, and concludes her service this conference. Ben Montgomery is been serving a 3-year term as Vice-Chair and concludes with his 3rd year. David Krayesky is serving a 3-year position as appointed Secretary/Treasurer. We will hold elections for a new Chair and Vice-Chair during this year's conference.
2. Awards: In 2020, the Postelthwait Award and the Bessey Award were paused due to Covid-19. In 2021, the new chair of Education Committee (Rachel Jabaily) and the Teaching Section (Kyra Krakos) reviewed the nominations and chose this year's winner, which will be awarded at the 2021 virtual Botany meeting.
3. Conference Participation: The teaching and outreach section continues to have a strong presence among the contributed papers at the annual Botany conference, including this year's virtual format. The broad range of categories that fit into this section attract a cross-section of attendees. Botany 2019 had 14 contributed papers and 4 posters. Scheduled for Botany 2020 are 15 contributed papers and 6 posters. We acknowledge the shift in downward growth is due to Covid-19 and anticipate larger numbers in the future.
4. Initiatives and Goals: At Botany 2018 a collaboration was discussed between the Teaching section and the Diversity committee about combining resources to promote structured programming focused on diversity and inclusion for Botany 2019. Broadly, the goal of this group was to promote networking and shared knowledge among the faculty of the regional tribal colleges and community colleges and other attendees of BOTANY 2019 with the goal of diversifying the community of plant scientists. This collaboration resulted in a funded NSF grant that is providing funding for 12 scientists from under-represented schools and communities (with a focus on invitations to the tribal colleges) to attend Botany 2019. In 2020, we continue the second year of this initiative, in a virtual setting. In 2021, we conclude this grant, including the 3rd year extension with the following activities for Botany 2021: 1) Funding the grant recipients from 2019 and 2020 to return to Botany 2021 to present their research and participate in a panel discussion 2) a Diversity and Inclusion Initiative virtual meet and greet at the beginning of the conference to promote and build relationships, 3) a special contributed paper section in the Teaching Section with a specific emphasis on inclusive pedagogical practices in various institutional settings highlighted as "Creating an Inclusive Experience in the Classroom and Across the Discipline of Botany" and 4) a round table discussion with our grant recipients as the panel members discussing the impacts of the previous year, new goals for education, and the broader vision for diversity and inclusion. This year's round table is "Educating for a Diverse and Inclusive Community in Botany for the 21st Century".

The final grant extension was used to fund registration fees for the PLANTS student and undergraduate representative to the DEI committee, Charles Bush, as well as 75 other applicants.

5. Looking Ahead: We sent out a targeted email encouraging more teaching section participation in the Flash talks, and plan to make this an area of discussion at our annual section meeting and lunch. We are looking at the role of collaborations with industry (such as with the Danforth Plant Center) and cross-discipline approaches to addressing plant awareness, as well as sponsoring more workshops to address the needs of botanical education in our increasingly virtual world.