**BSA GSRA Awards**

The 2021 awards committee received 134 student applications for the BSA Graduate Student Research Award, of which we were able to award 40 proposals (11 Masters students and 29 PhD students).

Based on discussions held in 2020, the GSRA review process utilized a new evaluation system in which each evaluation criterion was assigned different weight. For example, it was agreed that “Overall Quality” should be weighted more relative to “Relevant Literature Cited.”

Again following up on the committee’s discussions from 2020, this year’s committee agreed it would be useful to ask applicants a number of demographic questions related to gender identity, sexual orientation, and racial/ethnic identity. These were presented as optional (and anonymous) questions during the application submission process. In this way, the overall pool of applicants could be compared to the pool of winners. Results showed, overall, the pool of winners closely represented the overall pool of applicants. For example, 37% of applicants self-identified as LGBTQ+ and the winner’s pool contained 40% LGBTQ+ students. It should be noted that this reporting was not and will not be used for discriminatory purposes. Demographic information was not part of the proposal evaluation process and was not available to reviewers at any time during the proposal review process. Only staff working on behalf of the society have access to identifiable demographic data for the sake of reporting.

We additionally asked applicants to prepare a short (200 words or less) synopsis of how their work contributes to diversity and inclusivity in botany and BSA. Overall, we felt these to be useful and worthwhile additions to the application.