

## Early Career Professional Development Committee Report - July 2023

### Overview

Started in summer 2021 to help Student Reps develop programming for early career members of BSA. This committee currently consists of five members: Miranda Sinnott-Armstrong (2024), Ben Blackman (2024), and Karolina Heyduk (2024), Jill Spear (2025), Min Ya (2025). In addition, two student reps are also advisory to the committee: Ioana Angel (2023) and Eli Hartung (2024). We organized a number of events this year, but still feel as if we could host additional events, especially the career-focused panels. Our charge is broad, in that “early career” encompasses a large group of potential BSA members, and currently much of our programming is aimed at undergraduates and graduate students. Additional programming for postdocs and even early faculty would probably be received well by the BSA community.

### Events held in 2022-2023

- **Applying to/Succeeding in Grad School**
  - Took place in August 2023 as a panel, where faculty representative of different types of universities participated as panelists. Around 50 students attended the Zoom-based panel.
- **NSF GRFP workshop**
  - In September 2022, the ECPDC and the BSA Student Representatives organized a NSF GRFP workshop for students interested in Botany (membership in BSA was not required). This was the third year organizing this workshop through BSA. The workshop consisted of mentor groups to help draft and polish GRFP documents. 70+ students participated, with some on a waitlist due to limited number of mentors.
- **“Careers in Botany” panel, Collections Careers**
  - In April 2023 we held a panel for those interested in careers in collections, including herbaria and gardens. We had five panelists: Naomi Fraga (California Botanical Garden), Harlan Svoboda (US National Herbarium), Lauren Eserman-Campbell (Atlanta Botanical Garden), Jennifer Ackerfield (Denver Botanical Gardens), and Oscar Alejandro Pérez-Escobar (Kew Gardens). The panelists talked about their career paths and took questions from the audience on what these jobs are like and how to best prepare for a career in collections. About ~80 attendees were present.

# We also talked about hosting an “officer booth” or something similar in the exhibition hall at Botany2023 - for attendees this year, what do you think about this? If this is not happening this year, we can just put it as a plan for 2023-2024.

### Plans for 2023-2024

We plan to continue several of the events described above:

- **NSF GRFP workshop:**
  - NSF panel in early September
  - Peer review groups from September-October (GRFP deadline in mid-Oct)
  - CV review session in early October in, which will be open to the participants in the workshop but also to other students.
  
- **Applying to/Succeeding in Grad School**
  - These will be two workshops co-run with Student Reps, tentatively planned for August.
  
- **NSF Postdoctoral Fellowships panel**
  - This was on our to-do list last year, but never materialized. Ideally would happen October-ish before the deadline. Will consist of a panel with previous/current awardees and NSF POs. Could be expanded to discuss other postdoctoral fellowships (USDA NIFA, etc).
  
- **“Careers in Botany” panel, PUI jobs**
  - Tentatively planned for spring 2023, ideally in collaboration with the PUI Section
  
- **Officer booth at Botany 2024 and beyond**
  - Officers of ECPDC would hang out at a table during the Botany conference as a way to engage with the membership and hear from members what programming they would like to see.