

## Overview

Started in summer 2021 to help Student Reps develop programming for early career members of BSA. This committee currently consists of three members: Miranda Sinnott-Armstrong (2024), Ben Blackman (2024), and Karolina Heyduk (2024). Additional committee members (2-3) in the future would help achieve additional programming and should represent the breadth of the BSA community, including international members. Additionally our goals moving forward are to better connect with other committees in the BSA to streamline our offerings and maximize their benefits to our members.

## Events held in 2021-2022

- **NSF GRFP workshop**
  - In September 2021, 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 second year organizing this workshop through BSA, though the first time the ECPDC took the lead. The workshop consisted of 1) a panel with NSF program officers and 2) mentor groups to help draft and polish GRFP documents. In total we had 64 students participate with 28 mentors. Of the students, 5 received Honorable Mentions and 11 were awarded the GRFP!
- **Bruce Kirchoff workshops**
  - Dr. Bruce Kirchoff partnered with Botany360 and the ECPDC to provide two workshops in March 2022, ahead of the Botany 2022 abstract deadline: How to Write a Title and How to Write an Abstract. We had ~25 attendees at the first workshop and ~35 at the second.
- **“Careers in Botany” panel, Government Jobs in Botany**
  - In April 2022 we held a panel for those interested in government jobs in the botanical sciences. We had panelists from USDA, FDA, USGS, USFS, and state entities who took questions from the audience on what these jobs are like, how best to prepare a CV for them, and the job application process. About 50 attendees were present.

## Plans for 2022-2023

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**
  - Tentatively planned for October or November. 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, in collaboration with the PUI Section?

Additional members of the committee will enable us to offer more events, such as another CV review session (which has been requested by the Student Reps), a second “Careers in Botany” panel (perhaps on jobs at botanical gardens or in conservation organizations), as well as other topics we have brainstormed. With additional person power, we would be able to contribute more effectively to events both through Botany360, as well as events during the annual Botany conference.