

Education Update –July 2021

Prepared by Catrina Adams, BSA Education Director

Bessey Award

- Bessey Award selection for 2021 is underway, to be announced at the meeting. There were no nominations for the Bessey Award in 2020, and in general we get few nominations/year.
- Education Committee will be focusing on generating more nominations for this important BSA Education award, and increasing the profile of the award more broadly.

Education Staffing/Job Description Changes

- Education Technology Manager is a grant-funded position associated with DIG grant ending 9/30/2021.
- We are hiring for an “Education Programs Supervisor” position, who will spend 80% FTE on the F2 grant/PlantingScience and 20% on other BSA education initiatives.

Grant Funding Updates:

- NSF DRK-12 F2 grant work started (C. Adams PI, 3.9M, 2020-2025). Details available: https://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward?AWD_ID=2010556&HistoricalAwards=false
- Spending down no-cost extension year of our existing Digging Deeper (DIG) grant (through September 30, 2021; remaining budget of ~40K).
- Working with Kyra Krakos to finish out NSF RCN-UBE grant: Conference: Educating for a Diverse and Inclusive Community in Botany for the 21st Century (C. Adams PI, Kyra Krakos coPI, \$63,599; remaining participant support budget of ~12K). We are sponsoring 15 CC/TCU/MSI faculty and up to 75 (5 students/faculty member) through the grant this year with free registration to the Botany Conference. Six of these faculty members have been involved in this initiative since Tucson. A focus group planned with these 6 for after Botany meeting and we are collaboratively preparing a fall PSB article to report grant outcomes.
- Education staff assisted in preparing and submitting Plants III grant (NSF DEB#; Anna Monfils (PI), Catrina Adams (coPI), Muriel Poston (coPI); \$1,254,869). Expanded program builds on existing PLANTS II program, Diversity and Inclusion Initiative Conference Grant, and BLUE career exploration workshops and will include three events: pre-conference science identity workshop in spring in same region as Botany conference for local undergraduates; PLANTS pathway mentoring program for underrepresented undergraduate students; CC/TCU/MSI faculty workshop and inclusive botanical education track at conference. Grant includes funding for an 80% FTE program coordinator position.
- Education staff is collaborating on four “**Leading Cultural Change through Professional Societies**” (LEAPS) NSF proposals submitted this spring. If funded, Catrina Adams will serve on the steering committee of the ASPB-led LEAPS RCN proposal ROOT & SHOOT: Rooting Out Oppression Together & SHaring Our Outcomes Transparently. Three additional LEAPS proposals involve BSA as a collaborating partner: Black Men in Nature, an American Indian Science and Engineering Society-led LEAPS proposal, and a Plant Science Research Network-led LEAPS proposal.

PlantingScience Updates:

- COVID and school disruptions continue to present challenges for teachers and students using our PlantingScience program. However, we had a larger than-usual spring cohort of 995 students in 26 groups, which is our largest spring session since 2018. Many teachers and students say working with scientists has been particularly motivating this year as they navigate such uncertainty in their classrooms.
- We plan to push back our timeline for the F2 research plan by 1 year (implement summer/fall 2023 vs. 2022) to allow for COVID disruptions on K-12 teachers to ease, and to

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hopefully allow time to record in-classroom video from experienced PlantingScience teachers for reflection and discussion during the professional development.

Life Discovery: Doing Science Virtual Conference will be held in-person in Estes Park, CO, SEPT 30-OCT 2 2021: We partner in hosting this education conference along with ESA and SSE. Typically a BSA staff member and/or a member of the education committee participate on the Life Discovery planning committee and BSA funds their travel to the conference (registration and sometimes hotel costs for planning committee members are covered by the conference). BSA also helps to advertise the conference to the BSA membership and helps to pick speakers that would appeal to BSA membership interests. The October 2020 conference was moved online due to COVID. To avoid cancellation fees we rebooked for October, 2021 at the same location (YMCA at Estes Park, Colorado). The LDC planning committee (including Phil Gibson and Catrina Adams representing BSA) have decided to go ahead with an in-person meeting in Estes Park. The conference will follow ESA's COVID policies requiring attendees to be vaccinated. More info on the conference as it shapes up is available here: <https://www.esa.org/ldc/>

Publications under review:

Taylor, J., Westbrook, A., Adams, C., Creasap-Gee, J. The effect of participation in a student-scientist partnership-based online plant science mentoring community on high school students' science achievement and attitudes about scientists. Accept with major revisions (6/15/21) from Journal of Research on Science Teaching (JRST) with 90 days to resubmit.

Publications in prep:

Two additional papers on DIG results remain in draft form in preparation for submission to the *The American Biology Teacher* and *BioScience*. Both of these are planned to reference the more detailed Taylor et. al. study, so this one being stalled has impacted our ability to move on additional papers.

Presentations/Booth Recruitment Planned:

PlantingScience Workshop, American Society of Plant Biologists annual meeting. Presented by C. Adams and Katie Becklin (DIG PlantingScience Fellow participant). PlantingScience will share a booth with ASPB at the next NABT meeting in Atlanta, GA. A planned booth in 2020 was postponed until the in-person meeting in 2021.

Botany 360: Education/Outreach online discussions

At our mid-year Education Committee, there was lots of interest in planning themed panel or open discussions around topics of interest in teaching and outreach that could be held virtually over the year. We plan to explore some potential themes for these at our next committee meeting. I know that other committees and sections are also interested in similar videoconference-based events on other themes over the year. It may be beneficial to have some mechanism for scheduling these across the society to avoid conflicts and to create a good balance of topics.

Education Committee/Director-at-Large Transition.

Chris Martine, Education Director-at-Large and Education Committee Chair will rotate off the committee this year and we are welcoming Rachel Jabaily who will serve in these roles for the next term. Committee members rotating off as of 2021 are Dori Contreras, Karolina Heyduk and graduate student representative Ben Stone. New committee members joining us are Karen Wellner, Helen Holmlund, and undergraduate student representative Kiana Lee. Our Education Committee meeting is upcoming (July 8, 2021), and we will update you on outcomes during the board meeting.