

## **Education Update – October 2019**

Prepared by Catrina Adams, BSA Education Director

### **Grant Funding:**

- We have received a no-cost extension on our Digging Deeper (DIG) grant (now ends September 30, 2020). We also received official permission to move the bulk of remaining participant costs into other budget categories, so we are in good shape to support staff at the same level and continue to publish and disseminate research on this grant through year 5.
- NSF DRK-12 grant proposal rewrite in progress with help from grant consultant Karen Cassidy. Deadline November 18, 2019.
- NSF RCN-UBE grant proposal awarded and successfully implemented at Botany 2019: Conference: Educating for a Diverse and Inclusive Community in Botany for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (C. Adams PI, Kyra Krakos coPI, \$63,599). This grant funded 13 community college/tribal college and university faculty, an additional 8 PLANTS undergraduates, and 4 PLANTS mentors to attend Botany 2019. The grant also supported three diversity and inclusion-themed events open to all meeting participants: a full day workshop (Broadening Botanical Pathways in Teaching), a themed education and outreach paper session (Creating an Inclusive Experience in the Classroom and Across the Discipline) and a special session with invited speakers (Educating for a Diverse and Inclusive Community in Botany - Speakers: Teresa Newberry, Anthony DePass, Monica Gaughan, Pam Soltis). All of the initiative's events were very well attended. Still a few outstanding expense reports, but we have approximately 10K of participant costs left over. Currently discussing ways to use these funds and build on this model for future conferences.

### **PlantingScience Updates:**

- New Master Plant Science Team support this year from American Phytopathological Society, new APS "Plants get Sick, Too" theme generally available.
- HUBzero (PlantingScience online platform developer) moved this fall from Purdue to the University of California San Diego. Our primary developer who has been working on PlantingScience.org since 2015 will not be continuing with the platform. Despite our expressed reservations, the new developer assigned to our account updated our site to the newest version of the HubZero platform and created substantial compatibility issues right at the start of the fall session. We've been dealing with fixing major problems with user access accounts and other smaller bugs and code reversion since mid-September. Guiding the new developer to fix the online platform so that it continues to run smoothly has been a major time commitment. Further development (mentor training, online poster session) is stalled until we can get the platform back to the way it was functioning at the end of Spring 2019.

**Plant Careers Resource Collaboration:** We are looking at ways to collaborate with other groups and create resources for students and others interested in careers involving plants. This would dovetail with overhauling education resources on Botany.org. This project is still in early stages, would like to shape this project based on outcomes from this year's strategic planning. There may be some funding available for this project from the US Botanic Garden.

**Social Media Liaisons:** Education Director-at-Large Chris Martine has been involved in selecting and onboarding our new social media liaisons.

**Life Discovery: Doing Science Conference:** This is a biology education conference held every 18 months collaboratively hosted by BSA, ESA, and SSE. The next conference is being planned for October, 2020 somewhere in Colorado. Theme TBD. The conference usually attracts a mix of high school and undergraduate teachers/faculty and average attendance is ~100 people.

**Publications submitted:** Taylor, J., Westbrook, A., Adams, C., Creasap-Gee, J. (submitted June, 2019 to Journal of Research on Educational Effectiveness). 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.

**Presentations Given/Workshops Attended:**

Plant Health (APS) (J. Creasap Gee, mentoring panel, August 2019), Plant Biology (ASPB) (C. Adams, August 2019: PlantingScience mentor workshop and mentoring panel); SCORE-UBE Open Access Education Sustainability Summit (J. Creasap Gee, invited participant, October 2019).

**Future Presentations/Invited Talks/Workshops:**

National Association of Biology Teachers (C. Adams, J. Creasap Gee, workshop, November 2019).