

## Education Update –March 2021

Prepared by Catrina Adams, BSA Education Director

### Bessey Award Nominations Due April 1

#### Education Staffing/Job Description Changes

- Education Technology Manager is a grant-funded position associated with DIG grant ending 9/2021.
- PlantingScience F2 and proposed Plants III will have full or near-full-time “program coordinator/manager” positions associated with them, we are working with MOBOT HR to put together job titles/descriptions and advertise. This is an opportunity to adjust job duties as needed to support a larger grant portfolio.

#### 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](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 ~90K).
- Working with Kyra Krakos to finish out NSF RCN-UBE grant: 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; remaining participant support budget of ~12K).
- Education staff helping plan Plants III grant and discussing new “Leading Cultural Change through Professional Societies” (LEAPS) NSF opportunities.

#### PlantingScience Updates:

- We have a need for PlantingScience mentors willing to mentor students working on our new [Tremendous Benefits of Trees](#) module developed by APS...the new module is VERY popular this spring as it is distance-learning friendly.
- COVID and school disruptions continue to present challenges for teachers and students using our PlantingScience program. However, we have a (relatively) large cohort of 28 teachers this spring and they are off to a great start.
- After the Fall 2020 session we surveyed teachers and created a “PlantingScience during the Pandemic” FAQ guide for teachers
- Our first F2 Advisory board meeting was held virtually over several meetings 2/11-2/19. Nine advisory board members, program staff and external evaluators met for an orientation and a series of working groups. Working groups included: research; teacher professional development; Power of Sunlight curriculum, PlantingScience website; diversity, equity & inclusion; mentor and liaison professional development
- We plan to push back our timeline for the F2 research component by 1 year (implement summer/fall 2023 vs. 2022) to allow for COVID disruptions on K-12 teachers to ease, and to hopefully allow time to record classroom video from experienced PlantingScience teachers for reflection and discussion during the professional development.

#### Life Discovery: Doing Science Virtual Conference plans for Estes Park, CO (or virtual)

**October 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

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BSA) is weighing options for moving the conference virtual once again this year, but we are waiting to see about cancellation terms from Estes Park. 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. Revised and Resubmitted (3/2021) to the Journal of Research on Science Teaching (JRST).

### **Publications in prep:**

Two additional papers on DIG results are in rough draft form in preparation for submission to the *The American Biology Teacher* and *BioScience*

### **Presentations Given:**

PlantingScience Workshop, National Association of Biology Teachers. Virtual, 11/7/2020. C. Adams co-presented with PlantingScience teacher Aubrey Mikos.

PlantingScience Guest Lecture for Syracuse University graduate-level science outreach course, requested by PS mentor/DIG participant Katie Becklin. Virtual, 3/4/2021. Presented by C. Adams and J. Creasap Gee.

### **Mid-Year Education Committee meeting upcoming (planning for mid-late March)**

We will update you on outcomes during the board meeting.