

**Botanical Society of America Teaching and Outreach Section**  
**Annual Report for 2019-2020**  
**Section Chair: Kyra N. Krakos**  
**Section Vice Chair and Program Director: Benjamin Montgomery**  
**Section Secretary/Treasurer: David Krayesky**

1. Leadership: In 2019, Kyra Krakos continues her 2<sup>nd</sup> year as Chair. Ben Montgomery has been serving a 1-year term as Vice-Chair and we will hold elections to permanently fill this position. David Krayesky is serving a 1-year position as appointed Secretary/Treasurer and will also be up for election at the annual meeting.
2. Awards: In 2019, the Postelthwait Award and the Bessey Award have been paused due to Covid-19. The committee will address moving these awards forward in a new virtual format.
3. Conference Participation: The teaching and outreach section continues to grow and have a strong presence among the contributed papers at the annual Botany conference, including this year's virtual format. The broad range of categories that fit into this section attract a cross-section of attendees. Botany 2019 had 19 contributed papers and 16 posters. Scheduled for Botany 2020 are 14 contributed papers and 4 posters. We acknowledge the shift in downward growth is due to Covid-19 and anticipate larger numbers in the future.
4. Initiatives and Goals: At Botany 2018 a collaboration was discussed between the Teaching section and the Diversity committee about combining resources to promote structured programming focused on diversity and inclusion for Botany 2019. Broadly, the goal of this group was to promote networking and shared knowledge among the faculty of the regional tribal colleges and community colleges and other attendees of BOTANY 2019 with the goal of diversifying the community of plant scientists. This collaboration resulted in a funded NSF grant that is providing funding for 12 scientists from under-represented schools and communities (with a focus on invitations to the tribal colleges) to attend Botany 2019. In 2020, we continue the second year of this initiative, in a virtual setting. Our activities for Botany 2020 include 1) Funding the grant recipients from 2019 to return to Botany 2020 to present their research and participate in a panel discussion 2) Sponsoring a workshop on On-Line Botanical teaching 3) a special contributed paper section in the Teaching Section with a specific emphasis on inclusive pedagogical practices in various institutional settings and 4) a round table discussion with our grant recipients as the panel members discussing the impacts of the previous year, new goals for education, and the broader vision for diversity and inclusion.
5. Looking Ahead: We sent out a targeted email encouraging more teaching section participation in the Flash talks, and plan to make this an area of discussion at our annual section meeting and lunch. We are looking at the possibility of expanding the Diversity and Inclusion initiative to a separate new multi-year grant, as well as sponsoring more workshops to address the needs of botanical education in our increasingly virtual world.