

Education Symposium

Program/Abstract # 23

A New Biology for the 21st Century: How to Inspire Students and the Public?

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The Education Symposium will consider why SDB members should and indeed already are supporting the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) proposed initiative “A New Biology for the 21st Century”. The NAS report proposes that solutions to the key societal needs of sustainable food production, ecosystem restoration, optimized biofuel production and improvement in human health will only come through integrating biology with many other disciplines. The goal of this session is to provide a platform for SDB members to share how developmental biologists can be effective in the education of our students and of the non-scientific public. The Symposium will begin with an introduction of the initiative by our keynote speaker, Vicki Chandler, U Arizona, and a member of the NAS board. Her presentation will be followed by ample time for comments and discussion from symposium participants. We will also hear how two developmental biologists are working toward the challenges of training students to be a part of the New Biology and of inspiring the public to buy in, to support these goals. Susan Singer, who was chair of National Research Council committee on Promising Practices in Undergraduate Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, teaches integrated plant genomics courses at Carleton College. She will discuss the value these courses provide to students. Michael Dyer, from St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital, and an HHMI Early Career Scientist, is involved in interdisciplinary research on childhood retinoblastoma and neurodegenerative diseases. He actively participates in St. Jude’s public outreach programs, which he will describe.

doi: 10.1016/j.ydbio.2010.05.049