



2022-2023 WSSA Standing Committee Report

Committee Name and Code: Professional Development and Membership Committee (F4)

Committee Chair: Mayank Malik

Committee Members (includes sub-committee members): Pete Eure, Daljit Singh, Dilpreet

Riar, John Hinz, Cara McCauley, Steve Li, Aniruddha Maity

Board of Directors Liaison: Sarah Kesar, Richard Zollinger

Committee members rotating off: Mayank Malik, Daljit Singh; Pete Eure (Interested to continue in committee)

Recommended members to replace those rotating off:

New Committee Chair – Cara McCauley (2023-26)

Pete Eure (2023-26); Sandeep Rana (2023-26)

Summary of past year's activities including:

- Committee goals
 - Evaluate ways to encourage participation of more graduate students in WSSA meetings.
 - Encourage more students to apply for the WSSA Graduate Student Travel Award and Travel Enrichment Experience
- Committee accomplishments (impact of activities on membership, publications, policy, education, other, etc.)

The first goal for this team is to select the winners Travel Enrichment Experience (TEE) awards. This year we got a good representation from all societies and students from each society were represented in TEE class of 2022. The WSSA Professional Development and Membership Committee received 23 applications for this award. All the students had put tremendous effort in putting together the

application packets and it was very difficult for the committee to select the top students. The top five students for TEE 2022 program were:

Name	University	Region
Emily Duenk	University of Guelph	CWSS
Joshua Miranda	Oregon State University	WSWS
Sarah Kezar	Texas A&M University	SWSS
Sachin Dhanda	Kansas State University	NCWSS
Estefania G. Polli	NC State University	NEWSS

The team will continue with the program outreach efforts to each regional society, so that we get good response and applicant pool from each regional society.

The second responsibility that the committee has got is to select the winners for WSSA Graduate Student travel awards. Like TEE program, there was a great response from graduate students regarding this program. The committee received 19 applications for this award. All the students had put tremendous effort in putting together the application packets. Again, it was a difficult task for the committee to select the top students. The top six students for 2023 WSSA Graduate Student Travel Award were:

Name	University	Region
William Kramer	Colorado State University	WSWS
Bethany Schulteis	Cornell University	NEWSS
Bholuram Gurjar	Texas A&M University	SWSS
Amber Pelon	Colorado State University	WSWS
Sachin Dhanda	Kansas State University	NCWSS
Annu Kumari	Auburn University	SWSS

- WSSA funds requested if any?
 - Requesting funds to conduct professional development webinars and professional development session in 2024 WSSA meeting
- Current state of the committee's projects or activities?
 - Travel Enrichment Experience and Graduate Student Travel award programs going well. Committee working on ways to make these programs more popular and increased participation from students.

- Any new information posted on the WSSA website?
 - The information regarding winners of WSSA Travel Enrichment Experience (TEE) awards was posted on WSSA website
 - The information regarding the winners of WSSA graduate student travel awards will also be posted on WSSA website.
 - Information regarding applications for 2023 TEE awards will be posted on website in March.

Summary of plans for next year (changes in goals, key initiatives, plan of action, etc.):

Continue communication with regional weed science societies regarding TEE program, so that we can get diverse pool of applicants across the regional societies.

WSSA Professional Development and Membership Committee this week. There was a great discussion on professional development ideas/seminars for WSSA members and students. One idea is to have a Professional Development session in 2024 WSSA meeting. Here are few ideas on the topics

- Talk on jobs in Industry and academia
- How to present an effective extension talk and an industry talk
- How to do successful virtual interviews
- Effective use of social media for communication of scientific ideas

Webinars

- Invite an industry HR person to provide interview tips
- Invite a recent graduate student (working in Industry/Academia from last 3-5 years) to provide tips on how to transition from a student to a young professional

Recommendations for Board or Membership action:

Help the committee in organizing the professional development seminars. This can be done by helping us find good speakers and letting us know how to communicate to BOD regarding this.