A Discussion of the Future of Plant Science

Workshop Schedule

9:00 AM – Welcome (Crispin Taylor)  
9:10 AM – Introductions  
9:20 AM – Overview (David Stern, by video)  
9:40 AM – Breakout 1 (small group discussion)  
10:00 AM – Reporting: Breakout 1  
10:15 AM – Break  
10:30 AM – Breakout 2 (in new groups)  
10:55 AM – Summary  
11:10 AM – Reporting: Breakout 2  
11:30 AM – Group discussion and closeout

Introductions at breakout tables
At the tables you are currently seated at, take one minute (or less) to introduce yourself to everyone at your table. If you know, share with them “what you want to be when you grow up.”

Breakout 1
At your tables, each group discuss “How should grad school prepare students for careers beyond academia?”

Focus questions
1. What is currently offered to help prepare you (or your students) for careers beyond academia?  
2. If you could implement any changes to graduate programs, what might you do to help prepare students for careers beyond academia? (Create a list as a group.)  
3. Prioritize your top 3 interventions. (Each person in the group vote on up to three items.)

After break, we will re-group the tables in the following priority areas:

- Improve collaboration with Industry  
- How do we create opportunities to develop transferable skills?  
- Undergraduate education
Breakout 2
Using the top 3 priority areas decided by the group, how do we make these changes happen? (Focus on one, two, or three areas.)

Focus Questions:
1. Discuss how you might implement each priority.
2. What changes do we need at the institutional level? What federal support, or support from societies, would be helpful? How can we create a culture of change?
3. How might you overcome resistance to these changes?
4. Summarize your discussions and assign a reporter to share with the group.

Reporting Out
For each of the 3 priority areas, the organizers will create a page on Plantae summarize the feedback and input gathered in the workshop. Photos will be taken of each flipchart and posted to Plantae for future reference.

Follow-up
The Plantae articles will be open for feedback and input from the community (on Plantae) through the end of August 2017. Everyone in the plant science community is invited to add comments. All input and feedback will be summarized in a final document that will live on Plantae and support the next version of the National Plant Systems Initiative.

About the Plant Science Research Network
The Plant Science Research Network is sponsored by a Research Coordination Network award from the National Science Foundation. Members of the Plant Science Research Network: Alliance of Crop, Soil, and Environmental Science Societies, Association of Independent Plant Research Institutions, American Society of Horticulture Science, American Phytopathological Society, American Society of Plant Taxonomists, Botanical Society of America, Council on Undergraduate Research, Ecological Society of America, Global Plant Council, Genetics Society of America, and Phytochemical Society of North America.

Questions? Contact Natalie Henkhaus (nhenkhaus@aspb.org), Executive Coordinator for the Plant Science Research Network. Learn more about the Plant Science Research Network at community.plantae.org.