

# 2020 WSSA Committee Report

## Summary for 2019 and Action Plan for 2020

**Committee Code and Name:** F4, Professional Development and Membership Committee

**Committee Chair:** Mayank Malik

**Committee Members - 2019:**

Malik, Mayank  
Lawrence, Nevin  
Odero, Calvin  
Tseng, Te-Ming Paul  
Cara McCauley  
Byron Sleugh  
Steve Li

**Board Coordinator:**

President (Larry Steckel)

**Committee Members Rotating Off:**

### Summary of Activities

- What were the committee's goals for 2019?
  1. Evaluate ways to encourage participation of more graduate students in WSSA meetings.
  2. Encourage more students to apply for the WSSA Graduate Student Travel Award
- List the committee's accomplishments (since the last annual meeting):

The committee screened 19 applications for the WSSA Graduate Student Travel Award and selected 6 applicants listed below.

  1. Grant Lawon Priess (University of Arkansas, [glpriess@email.uark.edu](mailto:glpriess@email.uark.edu))
  2. Sarah Striegel (University of Wisconsin - Madison, [sstriegel@wisc.edu](mailto:sstriegel@wisc.edu))
  3. Juliya A. Cubins (University of Minnesota, [cubin001@umn.edu](mailto:cubin001@umn.edu))
  4. Prashasti Agarwal (New Mexico State University, [agarwalp@nmsu.edu](mailto:agarwalp@nmsu.edu))
  5. Biwek Gairhe (University of Florida, [biwegairhe@ufl.edu](mailto:biwegairhe@ufl.edu))
  6. Eugene Law (Cornell University, [epl49@cornell.edu](mailto:epl49@cornell.edu))
- What information was posted on the WSSA website?

WSSA Graduate Student Travel Award 2019 Announcement
- What amount of funds were requested? How much was spent?

None
- What was the impact of the committee activities/accomplishments on the following: membership, publication, policy, legislation, and/or education?

We hope to increase WSSA membership in the coming years through active participation of regional members and graduate students in the society.

- What is the current state of the committee's projects and activities?  
See the plan below.

### **2020 Plan for Committee Activities**

- Goals for 2020:  
The key point of discussion was the activities that this committee can do for the professional development of scientists and students besides selecting the six graduate student travel awards. The idea is to have the professional development webinars.
- The committee has got additional responsibility to select the recipients of Graduate Student Travel Enrichment Experience (TEE). Committee will work with GSO to finalize the plan and timelines to complete the process in time.
- Plan of Action:  
Organize:
  1. Webinar on professional development for new incoming weed scientists
  2. Webinar for students on how to prepare for Industry jobs and jobs in academia

### **Recommendations for Board/Society Action:**

- Funds requested for 2020:
- Other requests for the Board:  
Help and guidance on conducting professional development webinars.  
May need some funds for professional development webinar speakers.