

Deisiany Neres  
ASPB  
Ambassador  
2025 End of the year report

This year, my participation in ASPB activities improved significantly compared to last year, and I am very pleased with the contributions I was able to make. First and foremost, I was able to attend the ASPB Annual Meeting thanks to the society's generous \$400 award. This opportunity allowed me to network with a wide range of ASPB members, meet new participants, and discuss the Ambassador Program during conversations, helping raise awareness of the society's initiatives.

During the Annual Meeting, I participated in several activities, including the Game Night gathering, where I interacted with non-ambassadors and discussed both the Ambassador Program and ASPB in general. This was a fun and, I hope, fruitful experience, as my table included participants from across the United States and even one individual from Europe. I was able to share my experiences as an ambassador and highlight the value of ASPB. I also participated in the "Get to Know the Ambassadors" session and the Buddy Walk Program. The Buddy Walk was a particular highlight, as it allowed me to connect with one individual throughout the entire conference and discuss professional development, ASPB, current science, and the job market—an especially daunting topic for those approaching graduation.

In addition, I had several meaningful conversations with graduate students facing challenges, offering advice on strategies for communicating openly and professionally with their advisors.

Another major highlight of 2025 was my involvement in the SURF program. Reviewing older participant lists and locating former SURF participants was challenging, but connecting with respondents was extremely rewarding. I successfully encouraged two individuals to complete their profiles, and I conducted a Zoom interview with one of them. This experience was particularly meaningful, as we shared similar backgrounds, and ASPB programs had played an important role in shaping his career, even though he did not remain in the plant sciences.

I also participated in three meetings this year: two All Hands meetings and one focused on improving membership capabilities, which included collaboration with Corteva representatives.

Additionally, I initiated the first steps of an outreach activity for children in a low-income community. While the program currently involves a small group, my goal is to expand this initiative throughout 2026. I reached out to the community and conducted our first science and basic English session. I hope that during 2026 we will establish a consistent schedule and fully launch this outreach program.

At every opportunity, I highlighted the mission and importance of the American Society of Plant Biologists, emphasizing opportunities beyond conferences, including networking and professional growth, while actively fulfilling my role as an ASPB Ambassador.

Looking ahead to 2026, I aim to contribute to the organization of the Midwest Conference and to reconnect with SURF participants who have not yet responded, with the goal of completing their

profiles. While I am unsure whether I will be able to attend the Midwest Section meeting, I am eager to assist with its organization in any capacity. Although I do not have photos to share, this year was truly an enriching experience.

Overall, my fourth year as an ASPB Ambassador was highly rewarding, and I look forward to continuing my involvement and contributing further to the program in the coming year.