

# SACNAS Scientific Symposia Session Proposal Example 2

## Strong/Well Written Session Proposal:

## Feedback:

**Session Title:** Can't Run, Can't Hide - Whaddaya Gonna Do? Interaction of Plants with Their Environment

**Session Proposal Type:** Scientific Symposium

**Session Chair:** Dr. John Harada and Dr. Maria Elena Zavala (CVs uploaded)

**Intended Audience:** Undergraduates, Graduate Students, Postdocs, Professionals

**Session Disciplines:** Physics, Biology

**Session Goals:** We have 3 major session objectives. The first is to emphasize the importance of using multidisciplinary approaches to address biological problems. Session speakers employ interdisciplinary approaches in their research, either by using diverse approaches in their labs or through collaborations with others. The speakers are excellent scientists at the forefront of their respective research areas, in part, because of their interdisciplinary scientific approaches. They are also known widely for the quality of their lectures. The biological disciplines represented in the session range from chemistry to systems biology to whole plant physiology to cell and molecular biology. A second objective is to highlight the unique biology of plants. Plants are exquisitely sensitive to their biotic and abiotic environment, and they have evolved novel strategies that enable them to interact with their environment. The final goal is bring to the conference a group of highly interactive speakers with strong interests in promoting science education and diversity.

**Session Materials:** Handouts and folders

**Brief Narrative (50 words max):** Animals can seek shelter in response to extreme environmental changes, but plants must alter their growth, development, and physiology to adapt to their surroundings because they are immobile. The speakers will discuss multidisciplinary approaches to study the unique strategies plants employ to respond to their abiotic and biotic environment.

**Duration:** 1.5 hours

**Share a Time:** yes

**Proposed Speakers:** All speakers are dynamic and active participants in various synergistic activities such as mentoring McNair and Bridges to the Baccalaureate students, developing internships with Andean agriculture, sponsoring a science camp for elementary school students and are from a diverse set of institutions. Thus, we anticipate they will be excellent mentors for the conference participants. Additionally, the speakers exemplify diversity: Dr. Colón is a native Peruvian, Dr. Long is an African American, Dr. Vivanco is a Mexican-American, and Dr. Assmann is Caucasian.

Talk topics:

**Sarah M. Assmann, PhD**, Waller Professor of Biology, Penn State University. Topic: control of stomatal opening and plant responses to drought. Disciplines: molecular biology and genetics, biochemistry, genomics and proteomics, electrophysiology and cellular imaging techniques, whole plant physiology, and systems biology. (Speaker confirmed)

**Adán Colón-Carmona, PhD**, Associate Professor, University of Massachusetts, Boston. Topic: Bioremediation. Disciplines: cell biology, molecular biology, physiology. (Speaker confirmed)

**Terri Long, PhD**, Postdoc, Duke University. Topic: effect of nutrients on root growth and development. Disciplines: systems biology, molecular biology. (Speaker unconfirmed)

**Jorge Vivanco, PhD**, Professor, Colorado State University. Topic: rhizosphere interactions and allelopathy. Disciplines: Biochemistry and physiology. (Speaker confirmed)

**Sponsorship:** Each speaker is seeking travel and lodging funding from their institutions but SACNAS assistance with 4 speaker registration fees would be highly appreciated.

Title is catchy & specific

Chair CVs are provided

The goals are detailed and well-thought out; multiple goals are presented. Chairs have provided details (e.g., quality of speakers) that can make this proposal stand above others.

Narrative addresses the theme and manages to be both specific and still have broad appeal to the general audience.

Most speakers are confirmed; and, All speakers come from various institutions and career levels, providing a diversity of viewpoints; and,

Though exact talk titles will be provided later, presentation topics are specific AND the chairs have included the broader disciplines associated with this speaker.

Chairs have noted the need for sponsorship assistance early on in the process.