Greetings friends,

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and is off to a productive spring. As our ASHS Leadership Class is preparing for our upcoming session, I wanted to share some exciting updates from the Leadership Academy Class II. Each class is responsible for selecting and developing a class project. The project is developed by the six members of the class, with an emphasis on promoting leadership skills and furthering the association's mission. Many of you have likely viewed the informative video produced last year by Class I which described a true LEADER in their own words. Our class has elected to pursue a new path, where we aim to provide a feedback channel for ASHS membership to connect with ASHS administration, serving as a liaison to facilitate communication. We feel that leadership has the responsibility of supporting a progressive path forward, as well as empowering all members of our community through championing inclusivity. As such, we are proud to announce Class II’s project, where we have developed a new session at the upcoming ASHS Annual Conference in Orlando, FL tentatively titled “The ASHS Experience Forum.” In this session, association members will be asked to provide a short presentation on improvements to aspects of the association that can create a stronger group. We hope to receive suggestions and input involving the conference, journals, website, or resources involved with the association.

So perhaps you want to discuss the conference poster sessions or have an idea for journal improvement? All ideas are welcome, provided the ideas are constructive. When abstract submission opens we will request abstracts from the association, similarly to any other session, and the team will select approximately 10 abstracts that we deem the most informative for brief presentations. These presentations can be developed in any style preferred, so make sure to start brainstorming ideas so you can submit an abstract. There will even be a prize for the “champion” of the session, but in all reality, when we come together to build a stronger community, we are all winners.

We hope that this session will continue to strengthen the ASHS community and association, while continuing to push us forward. More information on our project will be coming very soon. We greatly look forward to your submissions and are excited to visit in Orlando!

Jeb S. Fields, Louisiana State University Agricultural Center

ASHS Experience Forum

The ASHS Experience Forum is developed for all ASHS members to communicate their ASHS experiences (e.g., conference, webinar, and website) and make constructive suggestions. The purpose of this competition is to provide a platform for all to contribute to improve their ASHS experiences. Each participant will be required to submit an abstract detailing their ASHS experience and suggestions for improvement. The top 5-10 applications will be selected and scheduled for presentations during a 2-hr block at ASHS Annual Conference. Each participant will have 12 minutes to present their programs and 3 minutes for questions, with the remaining time for roundtable discussion. The presentations will be judged by a volunteer committee based on a set of minimum-specific criteria. If chosen for participation in the ASHS Experience Forum, you are required to register, pay the appropriate registration fee, and attend the ASHS Conference in-person in order to make your presentation.

Application deadline is April 1, 2023. To access the Experience Forum application, click here.