



# American Society of Plant Biologists

*Cultivating a better future through plant biology research*

Jennifer Childress, Ph.D.  
Senior Advisor, Science | Achieve  
1400 16th Street NW, Suite 510  
Washington, DC 20036

May 21, 2013

Dear Jennifer,

In follow up to our email exchange and phone conversation on May 6, 2013, ASPB offers this letter of support for the *Next Generation Science Standards* (NGSS) and the ongoing efforts of Achieve to disseminate and promote NGSS, especially with regard to state adoption. ASPB appreciates the research-based data and the professional expertise that went into creating the STEM practices, crosscutting concepts and learning progressions integrated within NGSS. The Society supports state adoption (not just adaptation) of what we expect will prove to be a well-integrated set of standards since applying a new program piecemeal often leads to unintended consequences that undermine learning.

As part of its many initiatives, ASPB sponsors awards, contests, and related materials that feature and help promulgate innovative techniques for education and outreach. With the advent of NGSS, ASPB specifically seeks to acknowledge and help disseminate those resources that effectively reference the Standards' practices, crosscutting concepts and learning progressions. ASPB dissemination activities include exhibits at many major national conferences for K-12, community college and undergraduate science teachers. The Society also regularly updates its members with information about NGSS and related initiatives.

ASPB has actively monitored the progress of NGSS since the inception of the National Research Council's work on the catalyzing *Framework for K-12 Science Education*. Many of the Society's members, including those in leadership positions, have participated in development meetings for the Framework and NGSS. When calls for input have gone to the scientific community, ASPB has responded promptly and favorably with regard to the Framework and NGSS, as well as to the closely-related Vision & Change in Undergraduate Biology Education efforts. The Society considers its 12 Principles of Plant Biology ([www.aspb.org/12principles](http://www.aspb.org/12principles)) and Core Concepts in Plant Biology ([www.aspb.org/PlantBioCoreConcepts](http://www.aspb.org/PlantBioCoreConcepts); developed together with the Botanical Society of America) as two discipline-specific resources that align with key elements of NGSS. ASPB looks forward to more such suitable, concrete opportunities to catalyze the use of NGSS and establish its nationwide adoption.

Sincerely,

Crispin Taylor  
ASPB Executive Director

ASPB is devoted to the advancement of plant science worldwide. Its 4,500 members conduct scientific research as well as participate in formal and informal education to enhance and disseminate plant biology research. To this end, the Society publishes the two most widely cited plant science journals, *The Plant Cell* and *Plant Physiology*, as well as the innovative online-only products [Teaching Tools in Plant Biology](#) and [The Arabidopsis Book](#). ASPB also strives to cultivate awareness of the importance of plant science research for scientific discovery, human health, and the economy, including impacts on food, feed, fuel and pharmaceuticals. Please visit <http://www.aspb.org> or follow us on Twitter [@ASPB](#).