



Congress Key Words

Unlike most conferences, thoughts and discussions at the 2015 BGCi Education Congress will be conceptualized around key words and not themes/tracks. In particular, this Congress has been designed to rally around common areas of interest, with the intent of enabling cross-over learning, innovative idea sharing and generation, and renewed energy and cohesion around shared purpose. The following key words reflect universal priorities botanic garden educators share, regardless of a garden's size, resources, or geographic location:

TL = Teaching & Learning

SC = Science Communication

TE = Technologies for Engagement & Learning

SV = Strategy & Future Vision for Greater Impact & Change

CE = Social Inclusion & Community Engagement

RE = Research & Evaluation

PD = Professional Development

Sessions should focus on two key words. These will be used to classify sessions. Find more information on how to submit your session proposal at <http://www.mobot.org/bgci>.

The key-words illustrate major issues we will be discussing in the congress and are pertinent to education in botanic gardens in a variety of ways:

Teaching techniques and learning experiences (TL) in botanic gardens varies greatly, from highly structured experiences for school groups to adult and family self-guided activities facilitated by the garden interpretation.

Different types of **science communication (SC)** showcases the value of plant science to society, enables the public to interact with the scientists and aims to inspire the next generation of botanists.

Fast pace advancements in **technologies (TE)** enables new ways for gardens to engage with the public on-site and allows them to reach a wider, online community.

Botanic gardens develop **new strategies and future vision (SV)** and build new partnerships that aim to bring change at a large scale.

Community engagement and addressing issues of social inclusion (CE) and equality are crucial if botanic gardens aspire to stay relevant to the whole spectrum of modern society.

Different methods of **research and evaluation (RE)** provide evidence of the impact of botanic gardens' education work and inform practice to better meet people's needs and expectations.

Educators, whether well-established or in the early days of their careers, need **professional development (PD)**. Attending courses, becoming part of a professional learning community, participating in conferences and networking events all contribute to improving practice.