

The Florida Academy of Sciences (FAS), the only professional STEM organization in Florida, is strongly and decisively dedicated to supporting diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice (DEIJ) in scientific practices and STEM education in the state of Florida. The Academy considers DEIJ values to be crucial to academics and to the advancement of scientific research in Florida. Scientists with distinct and diverse backgrounds and viewpoints are encouraged to participate in our annual meeting and other FAS events and to publish in the peer-reviewed journal *Florida Scientist*.

Other professional societies took stances on DEIJ in 2023 in response to legislation in Florida (HB 999, <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2023/999/?Tab=BillText>) that prohibited DEIJ programs at academic institutions. The Council of the Florida Academy of Sciences voted on 9 March 2023 to endorse the statement published by the Society of Integrative and Comparative Biology (SICB; <https://sicb.org/sicb-news/sicb-speaks-out-on-dei-in-higher-education/>) and the joint statement by American Association of University Professors (AAUP), the American Federation of Teachers, and the National Coalition Against Censorship (https://www.aaup.org/sites/default/files/Florida%20statement%20Feb%202023_0.pdf). The Academy's support was communicated to leaders of SICB and AAUP, who responded by publicly recognizing FAS's endorsement (next pages).

SICB Member Update: April 2023

Funding Opportunities for SICB Members: NSF IOS Synthesis Center, BioDesign, CAREER, and more! Check [out this helpful summary](#) of relevant opportunities from NSF and NIA.

SICB Statement on DEI in Higher Education endorsed by Florida Academy of Sciences

Read the full SICB statement [HERE](#). SICB member and FAS Treasurer Richard Turner writes “As a life member of SICB, I personally appreciate SICB’s action against this threat to academic freedom and DEI in my state.”

2023 is the Year of Open Science in the USA:

Consider submitting your paper to IOB!

Broadening Participation Service Award: This award honors SICB members who have demonstrated a commitment to broadening participation of underrepresented groups in the fields of integrative and comparative biology. Nominations for this award are **due Friday, May 12th, 2023** and full applications are due **Friday, June 16, 2023**. [More Information](#).

TAL-X Education Proposals due June 1: Do you have a terrific idea for an education workshop? Are you interested in sharing creative things you’ve done while teaching, during the pandemic or otherwise? Email Veronica Acosta to express interest or submit a proposal (chair.edcouncil@sicb.org).

SICB Education and Research Resources: BEARR!

Stay tuned for more info on access to peer-reviewed Biology Education, Assessment, and Research resources, building on the former [Research and Education Resources \(RER\) Library](#).

Double Check your Divisional Affiliations [HERE](#).

During our database transition last year, some divisional affiliations were lost. Divisional affiliations affect voting, communications, and even funding for divisions.

Volunteer to serve SICB: Service by members is critical to keeping SICB strong and growing and is a great way to participate. If you are interested in volunteering for committees or running for elected office, please let us know through the [SICB volunteering to serve form](#). Society officers review this list regularly.

Educational Council needs you: We are looking for a new member from DCPB, DEDE, or DPCB. If you’re interested, please contact President-Elect Michele Nishiguchi (president.elect@sicb.org).

SICB Socials

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SICBmembers/>

Twitter: @SICB_, @iobopen, @ICB_journal

Tik Tok: @SICB_

Instagram: @SICBgram, @iobopen, @ICB_journal

Mastodon: @SICB@ecoevo.social; @SICBJOURNALS@earthstream.social
Many SICB divisions also have their own socials!

Future SICB Meetings:
Portland, OR - 3-7 Jan 2026
Seattle, WA - 2-6 Jan 2024
Pittsburg, PA - 3-7 Jan 2027
Atlanta, GA - 3-7 Jan 2025
Los Angeles, CA - 3-7 Jan 2028

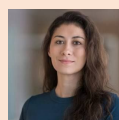
Journal Updates Check out the [IOB](#) and [ICB](#) blogs!

Integrative and Comparative Biology (ICB)!

Interested in writing an ICB paper? ICB has started to publish invited groups of papers in addition to symposia! Click [HERE](#) for examples including reefs/climate change and genomics.

We are currently forming teams around two opportunities:

Papers surrounding our [Incubator Sessions](#) focused on cross-kingdom comparative biology. The workshop has passed, but it’s not too late! Email icbjournal@sicb.org with ‘incubator interest’ in the subject heading.



Nick Burnett and Talia Moore are organizing a paper bundle focused on mechanical properties of biological materials in response to human influence. Any kingdom of life, and topics could include (but are not limited to): climate change, urbanization, domestication. Email or DM Nick (burnettnp@gmail.com, @N_BURNETT) or Talia (taliaym@umich.edu, @EMBIRLab1) for more.

Volunteer opportunities for SICB Journals: blogging, serving as an assistant or associate editor, and peer reviewing. Contact icbjournal@sicb.org or iobjournal@sicb.org for details.

Integrative Organismal Biology (IOB)!

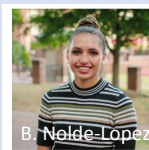
[Read IOB for free](#)



IOB in the news: How do pythons eat such big prey?

We are thrilled that a [recent IOB paper](#) by Bruce Jayne, Abigail Bamberger, Douglas Mader, and Ian Bartoszek was profiled by [Scientific American](#) and [Smithsonian Magazine](#).

Don’t miss out on another IOB paper creating a lot of buzz on twitter: Language Barriers in Organismal Biology: What can Journals do better?



B. Nolde-Lopez, J. Bundus, H. Arenas-Castro, D. Román, S. Chowdhury, T. Amano, V. Berdejo-Espinola & S.M. Wadgyamar

<https://doi.org/10.1093/iob/obad003>

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Art in Bio: our collaboration with Fine Art America supports SICB students. Consider donating an image to be featured! Email Suzanne Miller, icbjournal@sicb.org



Florida Bill Would Destroy Higher Education as We Know It

The AAUP, the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), and the National Coalition Against Censorship (NCAC) issued the following statement condemning the introduction of Florida HB 999. [Download the full statement here.](#)

With the introduction of HB 999, the Florida legislature—at Governor DeSantis’s urging—has doubled down on its attacks on academic freedom with a bill that would effectively silence faculty and students across the ideological spectrum and purge whole fields of study from public universities. This bill substitutes the ideological beliefs of those in power for the freedom that is necessary for colleges and universities to serve the common good and function as intellectual centers where young people succeed and where the ideas that drive our country’s economy and democracy are ignited.

Florida’s HB 999 would destroy academic freedom, tenure, shared governance, and university independence in the state’s public higher education system. The bill would place control of core curricula and institutional mission statements entirely in the hands of political appointees. It would limit or ban students’ ability to pursue certain majors or areas of study. Simply put, it would make Florida’s colleges and universities into an arm of the DeSantis political operation.

Historically, autocratic regimes have set their sights on cultural centers, the arts, and colleges and universities, because they see these places as threats to their power and control. The events unfolding in Florida are state-sponsored efforts to stifle ideas, silence debate, and limit the autonomy of educational institutions whose faculty, staff, students, or administrators may disagree with the party in power. Faculty, advocates of academic freedom and anyone interested in preserving our democracy must fight these draconian measures with everything we have—in Florida and in every other state where they appear.

Irene Mulvey, American Association of University Professors

Randi Weingarten, American Federation of Teachers

Chris Finan, National Coalition Against Censorship

[Please add your name to the list of individual signers of this statement, and make a commitment to fight legislative efforts like these](#)

Organizational Endorsers

AAUP Oregon State Conference
Association of University Presses
University of Southern California AAUP Chapter
AAUP Connecticut State Conference
United Academics of the University of New Mexico, AAUP/AFT
Canadian Association of University Teachers
Modern Language Association
North Carolina State University AAUP Chapter
AAUP Ohio State Conference
AAUP North Carolina State Conference
American Sociological Association
Association of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies
Middle East Studies Association of North America
American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages
Purdue University AAUP Chapter
Wesleyan University AAUP Chapter
Linguistic Society of America
Caucus for a Critical Political Science
University of Miami AAUP Chapter
United Academics of the University of Oregon
AAUP South Carolina State Conference
National Council on Family Relations
Portland State University AAUP Chapter
University of Rhode Island AAUP Chapter
Florida Academy of Sciences
Northwestern University AAUP Chapter
United Academics of the University of Vermont, AAUP/AFT
Association for Women in Psychology
American Library Association
The Authors Guild

If your organization would like to endorse this statement, please email gbradley@aaup.org

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