

# BAYLOR

U N I V E R S I T Y

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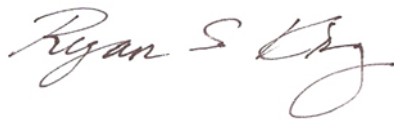
As the Graduate Program Director and Faculty in the Biology department here at Baylor, I have had the privilege of working with graduate students directly and in overseeing their training program. When four Biology graduate students approached me in the Fall of 2017 with the idea to begin a science outreach group, I was excited to see them shaping the direction of their own training as scientists and encouraged them to think beyond the scope of our department.

In the sciences, we communicate our work every day and it is through this communication that we are able to improve and grow in our research. In order to be an efficacious and impactful scientist, one must be able to adapt to many situations and appropriately deliver the message. It is imperative to begin this practice early in a scientific career.

Present Your PhD offers such opportunities and it does so in a way that expands the impact beyond the individual. They train early-career scientists in strong communication skills, as well as to create and foster connections in our local Waco community. Through these connections, they provide a diverse range of communication channels for graduate students other than just engaging with their departmental peers and colleagues. The challenge of navigating science communication and sharing their knowledge with students as young as six to junior college students to the elderly requires a robust understanding of how to appropriately tailor their message to best connect with the audience. It is this practice that best serves graduate student development. As these participant students graduate and continue with their careers, they will need to tap into the skills they learned through their experiences with Present Your PhD to make the biggest impact.

I am proud to say that students from my own department had the drive to create a program like Present Your PhD, but I am even more excited to see its expansion to students and departments beyond Biology and the sciences. This transdisciplinary and collaborative organization provides tools that serve to improve STEM graduate student training throughout Baylor, which will only strengthen Baylor as a research university. Present Your PhD is certainly a cornerstone for growth opportunities.

Sincerely,



Ryan S. King, Ph.D.  
Professor and Graduate Program Director  
Department of Biology