Sydella Blatch is the Diversity and Professional Development Program Manager at the American Society for Cell Biology, where she works on professional development programs for a variety of biologists. Prior, she was an Associate Professor of Biology at Stevenson University. Her research with students was on the relationships between microbes and folate (vitamin B9) production in fruit flies. Having published on STEM teaching and learning, she is also experienced in assessment, faculty professional development, diversity programs, and career development best practices. Her postdoctoral fellowship was in the molecular biology of mouse epigenetics, doctoral work in the nutritional physiology of insects, and bachelor’s degree in zoology. She was an APS Physiology Education Community of Practice fellow, has given over 25 presentations on diversity, professional development, teaching and mentoring, and has received ten awards in the areas of leadership, teaching and diversity.

**SESSION NAME: Concurrent Workshop II: Professional Development**

**PRESENTATION TITLE: Embracing Diversity and Combating Bias**

Inclusive environments are key for all to succeed. But everyone (yes everyone!) has biases, so how can you as the leader, foster an inclusive environment when everyone is operating with bias? Biases go beyond race/gender, which are not the sole focus here. In this workshop you will use methods to identify various types of bias in an environment, practice using tools to decrease it, and learn strategies to help you bridge the needs of students coming to you with a host of personal experiences.