

Our guest speakers touched on how important all forms of communication are in science and I found this to be very enlightening and beneficial for my understanding on how knowledge can be effectively shared and elaborated on. Whether its communication between collaborators, stockholders, or the public, it's an important driver of conducting good science. When communicating with the public, its essential present the facts and be as objective as possible. Since there can be an inherent distrust in the scientific community, it is also important to avoid using bias, be as ethical as possible and represent multiple voices in order to effectively communicate scientific ideas to a wider variety to people and their own personal experiences.

I've learned that networking is essential for my pathway to becoming an effective part of the scientific community. By getting a head start and finding a lab or person that is conducting research on topics I am passionate about, I can express my interest in these fields and show that I can be an essential part of a team. This could also produce more pathways down the road as I would be building more and more connections as I continue to reach out. As I move closer to completing my undergraduate degree and pursue a higher education, these relationships could help me find a masters program of interest and could eventually open up job opportunities.

We have learned how to use coding software in order to create models and to manipulate data. These skills have been extremely helpful for data visualization of our field work during this course and this has also allowed us to practice for future research projects. From these guest lecturers, I now understand the importance of having a basic understanding of modern statistics and programming knowledge in addition to having good field work skills. The speakers also highlighted how being curious in the field is an extremely beneficial tool. Embracing uncertainty based off of our observations can help us ask more creative and thought provoking questions. The combination of programming skills and thoughtful field work will help young scientists like me to become a more well-rounded contributor to the community.