

Sarah Bolson joined The New York Botanical Garden in September of 2008 as the Manager of Foundation Relations. Within a few years she quickly rose in the development department to Associate Director of Foundation Relations and Director of Foundation Relations before becoming one of the youngest women to reach top management in the position of Associate Vice President of Government and Foundation Relations. As the guiding force behind the Botanical Garden's foundation and government relations, Sarah raises over 3.5 million annually for exhibitions, research, and public education. She secures essential major capital, operating, and endowment gifts for the institution from private foundations. As a young professional her poise, professionalism, and result-driven project management has served as a model and inspiration to me. She seamlessly and effectively integrates her background and passion for the arts: literature, visual and performance, into its science based mission. Her vision and ability to make connections between art and environmental sciences has engaged funders, has changed public face of the institution. By campaigning and spearheading more inter-disciplinary and humanities based exhibitions and programming she conveys the importance of art influencing science, and vice-versa. Due to her direction, new and diverse audiences have discovered the Garden and its offerings. She has the ability to eloquently draw broad connections to botanical beauty and science to secure funding that has allowed the New York Botanical Garden to develop an increasingly diverse institutional profile, and welcome many new faces.