



Plenary: Taking Your Development/ Fundraising Up a Level

**Samantha Bowers: Director of Philanthropy & External Affairs,
The American Chestnut Foundation**

Samantha Bowers is the Director of Philanthropy and External Affairs for The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF). Through fundraising and outreach across varying mediums, she promotes TACF's conservation mission. She manages the external grants program, where research grants are awarded to universities across the U.S., as well as 60 formal partner agreements. Along with her husband, she maintains a pollinator-certified garden that's been featured in Home-of-the-Week and garden tours. She holds a BA in Biology from the UNC Asheville and completed Leadership Asheville in 2016.