Final Report on SEEDS Career Workshop, “Environmental Science and Policy Beyond the Academy”
1 June 2015

On February 27, 2015 the Abess Center for Ecosystem Science and Policy hosted a one-day workshop on careers in environmental science and policy in non-academic realms including speakers from Broward County Environmental Planning, the Nature Conservancy, National Geographic, the Center for Ocean Solutions, and the American Meteorological Society. We had 25 attendees.

The workshop’s key goal was to provide students and faculty a chance to explore career options beyond traditional university or college positions. The panelists outlined how they have used their own doctoral degrees to launch careers in local government, not-for-profit organizations, research centers, and the private sector, and explored ways in which they have continued to carry out research and participate in policy-making processes.

Students who attended the event commented afterward that the interactive portions, which we programmed in with the aim of enabling attendees to engage in multiple informal interactions with the panelists, were especially productive and informative. Based on that feedback and formal evaluations from nine participants, we consider the program to have achieved its primary goal of broadening horizons regarding career possibilities. The formal evaluations noted that the event was well organized and the speakers provided valuable information. The feedback included the following terms: inspiring, informative, affirmative, useful, interesting. Overall, we consider it a highly successful event.