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Sarah is a Professor at the Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research (BTI). At BTI, she works at the nexus of plant science and the societal issues that affect the plant science research enabling environment. Specifically, she works to improve science communication and public policy. She serves as the founding Director of the Alliance for Science—a global communications effort that promotes evidence-informed decision-making across a range of science issues, including plant biotechnology. She has an adjunct appointment in the School of Integrative Plant Sciences in the College of Agriculture at Cornell University where she contributes to courses on agricultural biotechnology. Sarah was instrumental in launching the CALS initiative, AWARE (Advancing Women in Agriculture through Research and Education) which promotes women in agriculture. Sarah is the 2021 Borlaug CAST Communication Award winner.

Sarah received her PhD in Plant Biology from Cornell University in 2009. She completed a BA in Biology at Reed College in Portland Oregon. Sarah grew up in a small agricultural village in northwest Illinois.