MONUMENTAL OPPORTUNITIES
Enhancing Public Policy
Transforming Careers

GOAL: Foster scientifically informed, evidence-based policy and practice.

STRATEGY: Engage scientists and engineers from a broad range of disciplines, backgrounds and career stages to:

- Contribute knowledge and analytical skills to the federal government
- Learn first-hand about policymaking and implementation at the federal level
- Build S&T leadership equipped to address complex societal challenges

OUTPUT: Policy-savvy scientists & engineers
Transferable Skills

**SCIENCE**
- Develop hypothesis, test, analyze results
- Design, implement, manage experiments and studies
- Curiosity, analytical skills, investigate using different research methodologies
- Integrate information from disparate sources, generalize from data, ascertain patterns

**POLICY AND BEYOND**
- Creativity, problem-solving, reach conclusions
- Project management, ability to focus and multi-task
- Objectivity, ability to consider other positions, alternate options
- Technical expertise coupled with interdisciplinary and systems thinking
# Transferable Skills

## SCIENCE
- Suspend judgment, work with ambiguity
- Poster, paper presentations
- Relay complex concepts, support position with data and logic
- Write and publish papers
- Write proposals, secure grants

## POLICY AND BEYOND
- Open-minded, flexible, persistent
- Public speaking
- Persuasive, resourceful communicator, rational thinker
- Writing and editing skills
- Fundraising, grant management
Science Policy in Government

Congressional Placements

• Collect and analyze information
• Write: briefs, talking points, speeches, press releases, reports, text for bills, websites
• Meet with stakeholders
• Organize hearings
• Facilitate, negotiate legislation
• Oversight
• Caucus collaborations

Federal Agency Placements

• Collect and analyze information
• Write: briefs, talking points, speeches, press releases, reports, text for regulations, websites
• Meet with stakeholders
• Prep for hearings
• Facilitate, negotiate legislation
• Oversight
• Caucus collaborations
Serving Society: Congress

- Organized press conference to announce a proposed bill on early warning systems following the Asian earthquake and tsunami

- Wrote text for a bill on water quality restoration for the Colorado River

- Coordinated oversight investigation of food safety issues & handling of peanut product recall

Michael Oleyar
ASA Congressional Fellow
At a SuperChefs against Superbugs meeting with Chef Maria Hines and members of Senator Patty Murray’s (D-WA) staff.
Serving Societies: Federal Agencies

- Led Hurricane Sandy Science Coordination task force launch of Rebuild By Design -- a multi-stage regional design competition

- Coordinated a market study of watershed services and benefits in the Chesapeake Bay

- Orchestrated international distribution of more than $5 million in famine funds to provide rust resistant wheat seed

Jun Bando
Executive Branch Fellow, U.S. Department of State
Enroute to international discussions on piracy in Indian Ocean.
2014-15 Placements
2014-2015 AAAS S&T Policy Fellows

286 Year-Long Fellows
- 170 first-year
- 92 second-year
- 24 alumni
- 5 short-term extensions

252 Executive Branch Fellows
- 244 selected & administered by AAAS
- 8 selected & administered by partner societies

33 Congressional Fellows
- 2 selected & sponsored by AAAS
- 31 selected & sponsored by partner societies

1 Judicial Branch Fellow
Fellowship Areas

- Big Data Analytics
- Congressional
- Energy, Environment & Agriculture
- Roger Revelle Fellowship in Global Stewardship
- Diplomacy, Security & Development
- Health, Education & Human Services
- Judicial Branch
Criteria

• Solid **S/T credentials** for career stage

• Show a **commitment** to apply scientific or technical expertise **to serve society**

• Exhibit good **communication skills**, especially to non-scientific audiences

• Demonstrate:
  - problem-solving
  - initiative
  - maturity, good judgment
  - leadership qualities

• **Match** to fellowship **program area**
Professional Development

- Orientation
- Skill Development & Career Workshops
- Educational Events
- Affinity Groups
- Networking
Alumni Fellows

Frances A. Colón
Deputy Science and Technology Adviser to the Secretary of State at U.S. Department of State

Rosina Bierbaum
Dean, SNRE, U. Michigan; Member PCAST

Kohl S. Gill
President and Founder, LaborVoices

Jessica Tuchman Mathews
Carnegie Endowment for Peace
**Explore**

**Assess** your interests, strengths, areas for growth, preferred work environment:

- Career counseling
- Personality assessment
- Capability assessment
- Values assessment

**Research** science-policy employers:

- local/state/federal/international entities; national laboratories, government contractors
- think tanks and consulting firms
- scientific and engineering associations
- nonprofit organizations, industry, academia
Explore

**Network** with people working in policy
- Opportunities, challenges, rewards
- Types of projects, work flow and environment
- Skills needed, stakeholders engaged
- Trends in the sector or field
- Salary ranges
- Paths to current position

**Experiment** with assignments
- Societies
  - Policy committees
  - Congressional Hill visits
  - Government relations offices
- Internships and fellowships
Fellowships & Resources

**AAAS S&T Policy Fellowships**
- [aaas.org/policy-fellowships](http://aaas.org/policy-fellowships)
  - Deadline: Nov 1
- Partner Society Fellowships
- Resource section on other fellowships
- Sci on the Fly
  - [http://www.aaaspolicyfellowships.org/sci-fly](http://www.aaaspolicyfellowships.org/sci-fly)

**AAAS Mass Media Science & Engineering Fellowships**
- [www.aaas.org/programs/education/MassMedia](http://www.aaas.org/programs/education/MassMedia)

**ELISS: Emerging Leaders in Science and Society**
- [www.aaas.org/page/eliss-overview](http://www.aaas.org/page/eliss-overview)

**California S&T Policy Fellowships**
- [www.fellows.ccst.us](http://www.fellows.ccst.us)

**Christine Mirzayan S&T Policy Graduate Fellowships**
- [http://www.aaas.org/program/aaas-mass-media-science-engineering-fellows-program](http://www.aaas.org/program/aaas-mass-media-science-engineering-fellows-program)

**ScienceCareers.org**

**Professional Association Career Resources**

**Engaging Scientists & Engineers in Policy**
- [www.aaas.org/esep](http://www.aaas.org/esep)