

SCIENCE TO POLICY: FROM LAB TO LEGISLATION

The Science to Policy Program (S2P) mobilizes UC Riverside's civic-minded scientists to address society's most pressing challenges through practical training, proactive science advice, and direct participation in policymaking processes.



- Learn how to translate science into policy.
- Meet with local, state and federal policymakers on their turf.
- Participate in workshops, seminars and curricula.
- Network with fellow scientists.
- Launch a career in science-driven policymaking.
- Become a preferred candidate for science policy fellowships.
- Receive a UCR certificate in Science to Policy.

PROFESSIONAL POLICY DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

In collaboration with the Graduate Division and the School of Public Policy, our vision is to mentor scientists to become professionals who are deeply engaged in civic life as science advisers and advocates, network with experts, and play a critical and collaborative role in policymaking processes.



FELLOWSHIPS

Summer 2019: S2P certificate program alumnus Derreck Carter-House served as a fellow in Congressman Mark Takano's office where he created a report on the capacity, quality, and accessibility of veterans clinics in Southern California.

Summer 2020: Danielle Delany served as a fellow in Congressman Mark Takano's office to investigate the economic impact of COVID-19, and Agnes Varghese served as a fellow in Assemblymember Gomez-Reyes's office to research racism as a public health crisis.

AWARDS

S2P participants have won awards and special commendations from the UC Center Sacramento's STEM Solutions in Public Policy Competition two years in a row. S2P participants also have been accepted to attend the California Council on Science and Technology (CCST) Science Translators Showcase where they engage with policymakers in Sacramento for the day.

PUBLICATIONS

Our members have published policy memos in the Journal of Science Policy and Governance about the policy implications of drought, school shootings, and environmental DNA.

2020 S2P certificate student Karin Johnson, Ph.D. in sociology, published the op-ed she wrote for the program, "Brain gain down the drain, would force a longer recovery," in University Work News.



EVENTS

Science Communication: "Communicating Science" with Brian Lin from the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) EurekAlert!, "How to Write an Elevator Pitch," and "Creating a Dissertation Bumper Sticker."

Professional Development: F.A.R.E Day: Fellowships, Advising, Running for Office, Engagement, and our Mock Legislative Committee Hearing.

Topic-Driven Events: Science Policy Hackathon, where students research and prepare policy memos on diverse topics, and "2020 Vision: The Future of California Agriculture," an agriculture policy event focused on developing solutions to interdisciplinary issues facing the California agriculture industry.

CONFERENCES

We hosted the first ever AAAS Western CASE Workshop, bringing in Southern California graduate students to discuss catalyzing advocacy in science and engineering. We have maintained critical connections with other science policy groups by attending the AAAS Annual Meeting and the inaugural National Science Policy Network Symposium.



CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Launched in 2019, our certificate program teaches STEM graduate students to be policy savvy with ten weeks of hands-on policy training. Featuring experts from around the country, we run classes and interactive groups on everything from the structure of local, state, and federal government, to tools and tips for effective advocacy and how to write a policy proposal.

BY THE NUMBERS

250

Over 250 graduate students have participated in our workshops and events.

10

Graduate students currently serve on the S2P cabinet, working to develop S2P's curriculum, foster relationships with local policymakers, and host events to connect students to the policy world.

15

More than 15 office visits have been made to California state legislators.

70

70% of science policy programs do not teach experiential skills, setting S2P at UCR apart from other programs.

28

Policy savvy Ph.D. students have completed our certificate course, coming from diverse disciplines from mechanical engineering and botany to sociology and environmental toxicology.

CRITICAL POLICY CONNECTIONS



"If you have ideas, come pitch them to me. My door is always open!"

Jose Medina
CA Assemblymember



"I applaud the Center for Science to Policy at UC Riverside for providing a unique opportunity for graduate level students to form critical partnerships with policymakers and public policy experts. Policy decisions that are informed by science are vitally important to a more prosperous future."

Sabrina Cervantes
CA Assemblymember



"I am amazed by the work that the Center for Science to Policy does to prepare students who are interested in working on legislation, and it was a real honor to host the first ever Science to Policy resident in my District Office. He applied his graduate training and skills in data analysis to help our office better visualize the impact of legislative projects — making sure we were working with hard facts. This is more than just an opportunity for students to receive hands-on experience — they are a tremendous asset to offices looking to produce meaningful results. I look forward to many more accomplishments from the Center for Science to Policy and its students."

Mark Takano
CA Congressman



Amy Gilson, Ph.D., recently joined our team as senior program director and a certificate class instructor. She is working with S2P directors and students to establish the new Center for S2P at UCR. Dr. Gilson currently staffs the California State Senate Committee on Transportation and holds a Ph.D. in chemical physics from Harvard University.

NOTABLE ALUMNI



Holly Mayton

Ph.D. in chemical and environmental engineering, founding director of the National Science Policy Network and current AAAS science & technology policy fellow



Lorena Villanueva

Ph.D. in botany and plant sciences, AAAS mass media fellow



Parisa Parsafar

Ph.D. in psychology, AAAS science & technology policy fellow



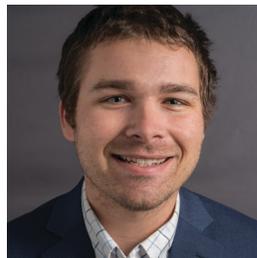
Derreck Carter-House

Ph.D. in plant pathology, SciPol Scholars program coordinator for the National Science Policy Network



Drew Story

Ph.D. in chemical and environmental engineering, Water Cycle Science lead for the U.S. Global Change Research Program, former AAAS science & technology policy fellow



Jonathan Nye

Ph.D. in earth sciences, postdoctoral scholar for the EDGE Institute, UC Riverside

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