



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, DECEMBER 17, 2012**

Contact: Julie Palakovich Carr, [jpalakovichcarr@aibs.org](mailto:jpalakovichcarr@aibs.org), 202-628-1500 x 225

## **GRADUATE STUDENT LEADERS SOUGHT TO SHAPE SCIENCE POLICY**

### ***Applications Being Accepted for Public Policy Award***

WASHINGTON, DC – The American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS) is accepting applications for the 2013 AIBS Emerging Public Policy Leadership Award. The award recognizes graduate students in the biological sciences who have demonstrated initiative and leadership in science policy.

“Communication between scientists and policymakers is essential to good governance,” said **AIBS Executive Director Dr. Richard O’Grady**. “This award is a great opportunity for the next generation of biologists to start a dialogue with their elected officials.”

Award recipients receive first-hand experience at the interface of science and public policy. The winners receive a trip to Washington, DC in April 2013 to meet with their congressional delegations. The winners will also participate in a training program on communicating with policymakers and will be briefed on the federal budget for scientific research. These events are in conjunction with the annual Biological and Ecological Sciences Coalition (BESC) Congressional Visits Day. The winners will also receive a certificate and one-year membership in AIBS, which includes a subscription to the journal *BioScience*.

“Past award winners have demonstrated leadership, enthusiasm, and excellent communication skills,” said **AIBS Director of Public Policy Dr. Robert Gropp**. “They have been great role models for scientists who are interested in working at the interface of science and policy.”

Since 2003, AIBS has recognized the achievements of biology graduate students who have an interest in and aptitude for contributing to science and public policy.

The award is open to U.S. citizens enrolled in a graduate degree program in the biological sciences, science education, or a closely allied field. Applicants should have a demonstrated interest in and commitment to science policy and/or science education policy. Prior winners and AIBS science policy interns/fellows are not eligible.

Applications are due by 5:00 PM Eastern Time on Monday, 28 January 2013. The award application can be downloaded at <http://www.aibs.org/public-policy/eppla.html>.

###

*ABOUT AIBS*

The American Institute of Biological Sciences is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) scientific association dedicated to advancing biological research and education for the welfare of society. AIBS works to ensure that the public, legislators, funders, and the community of biologists have access to and use information that will guide them in making informed decisions about matters that require biological knowledge.

Founded in 1947 as a part of the National Academy of Sciences, AIBS became an independent, member-governed organization in the 1950s. Today, AIBS has nearly 160 member organizations and is headquartered in Reston, Virginia, with a Public Policy Office in Washington, DC. Its approximately 40 staff members work to achieve its mission by publishing the peer-reviewed journal *BioScience* and the education Web site [ActionBioscience.org](http://ActionBioscience.org), by providing scientific peer-review and advisory services to government agencies and other clients, and by collaborating with scientific organizations to advance public policy, education, and the public understanding of science.

Website: [www.aibs.org](http://www.aibs.org).

- END -