



AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

AIBS Emerging Public Policy Leadership Award *Recognizing Exceptional Graduate Students*

Since 2003, the American Institute of Biological Sciences has recognized outstanding graduate students with the Emerging Public Policy Leadership Award. The award is presented to current Master's and doctoral students who have demonstrated initiative and leadership in science policy.

Recipients obtain first-hand experience at the interface of science and public policy through their participation in the AIBS Congressional Visits Day. Award winners receive an expense-paid trip to Washington, DC, where they are trained in public policy and communication. They also meet with federal policymakers to discuss investments in the biological sciences.

Past award winners are currently working in congressional offices, federal science agencies, and non-governmental organizations. Many remain engaged in public policy, either through their job or through involvement with professional societies.

The program has been so successful that other scientific societies have initiated similar programs modeled on the AIBS award.

The network of Emerging Public Policy Leadership Award winners is growing. AIBS remains in contact with past winners in an effort to build a stronger national science policy community.

"Receiving the Emerging Public Policy Leadership Award was an enormously rewarding experience for me. As part of this award, I participated in the AIBS Communications Boot Camp and the AIBS organized Congressional Visit Day. I learned practical tips for communicating with policymakers, the media, and the general public. I could immediately apply these strategies to a full day of congressional meetings to advocate for increased science funding. This experience was a powerful way to hone my skills as a communicator, which will continue to directly benefit my career as a scientist."

*Brian Lovett, Ph.D.
2019 Emerging Public Policy Leadership Award Winner*



Emerging Public Policy Leadership Award Winners

Year	Name	Current Employer
2020	Renee Collini	Mississippi State University
2020	Corinn Rutkoski	Michigan State University
2019	Brian Lovett	West Virginia University
2019	Barbara Del Castello	University of Georgia
2018	Joanna Bairzin	ZS Associates
2018	Karena Nguyen	Emory University
2017	Stephanie Bora	Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
2016	Julia Omotade	Isaacson, Miller
2015	Taylor Herren	California State University, Chico
2015	Kellyann Jones-Jamtgaard	National Institute of Food and Agriculture
2014	Andrew Adrian	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
2014	Amalia Almada	Planetary Health Alliance
2013	Jennifer Rood	Broad Institute
2013	Paul Tanger	U.S. Agency for International Development
2012	Andrew Reinmann	CUNY Advanced Science Research Center
2012	Lida Beninson	National Academies
2011	Wesley Brooks	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
2010	Meredith Niles	University of Vermont
2010	Ryan Richards	Center for American Progress
2010	Leslie Smith	Dive into the Ocean, Inc.
2009	Adam Roddy	Yale University
2009	Anna Ibarra	SUNY Upstate Medical University
2008	Cheryl Logan	California State University, Monterey Bay
2008	Caroline Ridley	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
2007	Amber Szoboszlai	Farallon Institute for Advanced Ecosystem Research
2007	Sarah Wright	Stanford University School of Medicine
2006	Madhura Kulkarni	Northern Kentucky University
2006	Christopher Hofmann	U.S. State Department
2005	Karen Laughlin	Heising-Simons Foundation



U.S. Representative Kevin Yoder (second from right) meets with 2015 winner Kellyann Jones-Jamtgaard (second from left) and other Congressional Visits Day participants.

This experience gave me insight into the realities of politics and diplomacy. I learned that effective communication with policy-makers requires knowledge of the federal budget and the impacts a policy will have on their constituents. This positive and challenging experience solidified my goal of working in science policy and inspired me to apply for more policy opportunities.

*Lida Beninson, Ph.D.
2012 Emerging Public Policy Leadership Award Winner*