

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 Biological and Ecological Sciences Coalition 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.

The AIBS Emerging Public Policy Leadership Award was absolutely crucial to opening my eyes to the intersection of science and policy. The program inspired me to continue working on issues related to science policy by serving as the External Chair for the University of California, Davis Graduate Student Association and as Director of Legislative Affairs for the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students. In my current position at the Kennedy School at Harvard University, I bridge the natural and social sciences always with an eye towards policy. It was because of my early exposure to the issues through AIBS that all of this was possible.

*Meredith Niles, Ph.D.
2010 Emerging Public Policy Leadership Award Winner*



Emerging Public Policy Leadership Award Winners

<i>Year</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Current Employer</i>
2017	Stephanie Bora	Pennsylvania State University
2016	Julia Omotade	Emory University
2015	Taylor Herren	California State University, Chico
2015	Kellyann Jones-Jamtgaard	PREP-KC
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	Boston University
2012	Lida Beninson	National Academies
2011	Wesley Brooks	Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL)
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
2004	Allison Vogt	The Nature Conservancy
2004	Heidi Weiskel	Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide



U.S. Representative Spencer Bachus (center) meets with 2014 winner Andrew Adrian (right of center) 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*