

Conducting Legislative Visits

May 1, 2018 | 1pm ET

Hosted by CADRE

Panelists:

- **Neil Canfield**
Legislative Affairs Specialist, Office of Legislative & Public Affairs, NSF
- **Augustus Mays**
Director, Government Relations, WestEd
- **Rebecca Vieyra**
K-12 Program Manager, American Association of Physics Teachers





The National Science Foundation, STEM Education, and Congress

Neil Canfield
Office of Legislative and Public Affairs
May 2018



NSF invests in basic research, and **people** to create knowledge that transforms our future.



NSF and STEM

- The mission of NSF's Directorate for Education and Human Resources is to provide the research foundation to develop a STEM-literate public and diverse workforce that is ready to advance the frontiers of science and engineering for society.
- NSF's role in supporting **research** on STEM education is unique.
- This research informs large investments at scale made by other agencies, organizations, and the private sector.



Discovery Research PreK-12

- Foundational research to advance understanding about STEM learning and teaching, from early childhood through high school.
- Projects in the DRK-12 program build on fundamental research in STEM education and prior research and development efforts.
- The DRK-12 program addresses immediate challenges that are facing preK-12 STEM education as well as the anticipation of radically different structures and functions of preK-12 teaching and learning.



Current STEM Topics of “Interest” on Capitol Hill

PreK-12

- Computer Science Education
- Cybersecurity Education
- Broadening Participation/Underrepresented Communities

Secondary/Post-Secondary

- Technical Education/Workforce Development
- Preparing for the “Future of Work”



Current Legislation ▾ STEM

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Status of Legislation ⊞

Subject ⊞

BILL

1. [H.R. 4323](#) — 115th Congress (2017-2018)

Supporting Veterans in **STEM** Careers Act

Sponsor: [Rep. Dunn, Neal P. \[R-FL-2\]](#) (Introduced 11/09/2017) Cosponsors: [\(10\)](#)

Committees: House - Science, Space, and Technology | Senate - Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Committee Reports: [H. Rept. 115-473](#)

Latest Action: Senate - 12/20/2017 Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. [\(All Actions\)](#)

Tracker: Introduced Passed House Passed Senate To President Became Law

BILL

2. [H.R. 1288](#) — 115th Congress (2017-2018)

Early **STEM** Achievement Act

Sponsor: [Rep. Kuster, Ann M. \[D-NH-2\]](#) (Introduced 03/01/2017) Cosponsors: [\(7\)](#)

Committees: House - Education and the Workforce

Latest Action: House - 03/01/2017 Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce. [\(All Actions\)](#)

Tracker: Introduced Passed House Passed Senate To President Became Law

BILL

3. [H.R. 3344](#) — 115th Congress (2017-2018)

STEM to STEAM Act of 2017

Sponsor: [Rep. Langevin, James R. \[D-RI-2\]](#) (Introduced 07/20/2017) Cosponsors: [\(2\)](#)

Committees: House - Science, Space, and Technology

Latest Action: House - 07/20/2017 Referred to the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. [\(All Actions\)](#)



NSF.gov Resources

Awards

- State/Institution Funding

About NSF

- NSF Toolkit
- Broadening Participation

Discoveries and "Impacts"

NSF National Science Foundation WHERE DISCOVERIES BEGIN

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NSF-FUNDED RESEARCH
Breakthrough could revolutionize IT
FULL STORY

Advancing the Sciences | Funding & Supporting | Inspiring & Educating -HIDE

Vultures reveal critical Old World flyways
April 30, 2018

Prosthetic arms can provide controlled sensory feedback, study finds
April 26, 2018



NSF Engagement with Congress



Best Practices When Making Legislative Visits

Augustus Mays
Director of Government Relations
WestEd



Outline

- **Why Visit with Legislators and Their Staff**
- **Goal of Visits**
- **Scheduling a Meeting**
- **How to Prepare**
- **The Meeting**
- **Following Up**

Why Visit?

- **Funding for the National Science Foundation (NSF) is contingent on legislative support.**
- **It is important for NSF awardees to communicate with legislators and their staff about the value and importance of your projects.**
- **This is especially true for legislators who sit on committees relevant to STEM education.**



Goals of Visits

- **Initiate a relationship.**
- **Demonstrate the value of education research and development in the area of STEM.**
- **Effectively communicate what we're learning about STEM education through NSF-funded work, what this evidence means, why it is important for the district/state/country, and why appropriating resources to continue/sustain this work is necessary.**
- **Become a resource, offer your CADRE as a resource.**

Scheduling a Meeting

- **Identify your members of Congress:**
<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/members>
- **Email or call the legislators' offices a few weeks in advance to schedule a meeting with a legislative assistant.**
- **You will almost certainly need to follow up, but don't be discouraged.**
- **Call the office the week before the visit to confirm the date and time.**
- **Be on time. Don't forget to factor in possible traffic, public transportation delays, etc.**

How to Prepare

- **Get to know your Members of Congress.**
 - **Understand your legislators' priorities.**
 - **Research their voting history and sponsored legislation, especially those related to education (e.g., Every Student Succeeds Act, FY18 omnibus, etc.)**
 - **Familiarize yourself with what is going on in your legislators' committees so you can connect your presentation to high-priority issues.**
 - **Follow your representative or senator on social media to remain up to date on current news.**

How to Prepare (cont.)

Think about the meeting from their perspective.

- **Members and staff are extremely busy with numerous competing demands.**
- **Members hear about all the problems. Try and illustrate how your research/project is part of the solution.**
- **Members will most value your work for the practical relevance.**
- **Connect your presentation to broader needs and issues of concern in the district/state, as well as concerns of national importance.**

Meeting Overview

- **Thank Members and staff for meeting with you and taking the time to learn more about your project/work.**
- **Tell a short but engaging story that demonstrates why your project is valuable and illustrates how the emerging findings from your research is relevant to the issues the legislator supports or that are of importance to his/her constituency.**
- **Offer yourself and CADRE as a resource.**
- **Thank them for their time.**



Following Up

- **Send thank-you emails.**
- **Think about how you can continue this relationship.**
 - **Invite the Member of Congress or staff to relevant events, or to observe your work in schools.**
 - **Keep them updated on the progress of your work.**
 - **Sign-up for their newsletter or follow on social media.**



Questions or Comments?





Self-Efficacy and the Congressional Visit

Rebecca Vieyra

K-12 Program Manager

American Association of Physics Teachers



Does my voice matter?

- Yes
- Voice = potential influence
- Relationship-building
- Refining your message

Am I the right person?

- Are you willing to *listen* as well as tell your story? Then, yes.
- Your life experience is enough
- Every perspective is of value

What will I get in return?

- Beyond possibly influencing issues I care about...
 - A trial run for advocacy at all levels
 - A chance to practice storytelling & messaging
 - Possible recognition for my expertise

Questions?



This webinar was hosted by **CADRE**, the resource network for the DRK-12 Program.

Slides and a recording of this webinar will be available on our website:

<http://cadrek12.org>.

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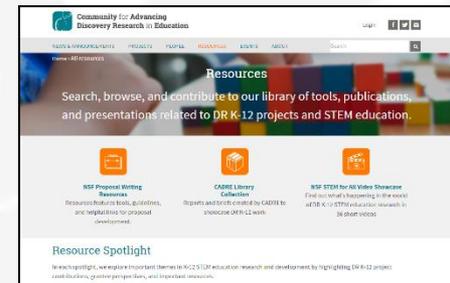
Questions? Email us at cadre@edc.org.



Resources @ cadrek12.org

- **NSF Proposal Toolkit** includes tools, guidelines, and helpful links for proposal development.

<http://cadrek12.org/resources/nsf-proposal-writing-resources>



- **CADRE Library Collection** provides information, tools, and reports for and about DRK-12 projects (e.g., a compendium of measurement instruments; strategies for effective partnering)

<http://cadrek12.org/cadre-sponsored-products-tools>

- **Resource Spotlights** highlight DRK-12 project contributions, grantee perspectives, short videos on DRK-12 project work, and important resources within STEM themes.

<http://cadrek12.org/resources>