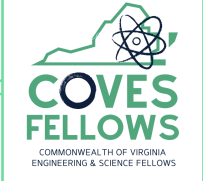


# **Planning and Developing a State-Level Science Policy Fellowship:** **The Virginia Academy of Science, Engineering, and Medicine (VASEM)** **Commonwealth of Virginia Engineering and Science (COVES) Policy Fellowship**

Fellowship Coordinator: Holly Mayton<sup>1,2</sup>  
 Planning Committee: Danielle DaCrem<sup>3</sup>, Matthew Diasio<sup>3</sup>, Holly Mayton<sup>1,2</sup>, Michaela Rikard<sup>2,3</sup>, James Aylor<sup>1</sup>  
<sup>1</sup> Virginia Academy of Science, Engineering, and Medicine  
<sup>2</sup> National Science Policy Network  
<sup>3</sup> The Science Policy Initiative at UVA



## **Summary:**

- The COVES Policy Fellowship is a new program that places scientists and engineers in policy offices in Virginia government, industry, or NGOs for 12 weeks.
- Fellows are selected from applicants at the graduate and postdoctoral level (MS, PhD, Postdoc) at Virginian Universities.
- Fellows will be paired with an experienced mentor and will receive science policy and communication training, networking opportunities, and will participate in VASEM activities.

## **1) Science Policy Fellowships**

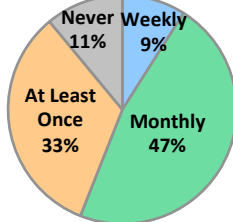
- Places scientists and engineers as advisors or analysts in governmental, NGO, or industry offices
- Provide training, mentoring, and networking to develop skills needed in science policy
- Strengthens connections between academia, government, and industry

## **2) Science Policy Fellowships provide meaningful changes to Host Offices and the benefits extend past the fellowship period.**

- California Council on Science and Technology (CCST) Policy Fellowship
- 1<sup>st</sup> state-level fellowship, established in 2010
  - Places 10 PhD scientists/engineers in Legislative Offices for 1 year

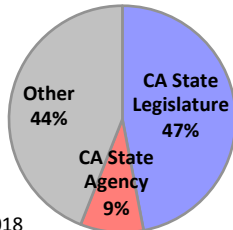
## **A) Most fellows correct technical errors at least monthly**

How often CCST fellows correct technical errors that changed opinions in the host office:



## **B) Most CCST Fellows remain in the California government after their fellowship year.**

Employment of CCST alumni:



## **3) 2020 Pilot Schedule & funding structure.**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	
Virginia Legislative Calendar	General Assembly Session				General Assembly Out of Session, Legislation Drafted							Legislation Pre-filed		General Assembly Session	
COVES Fellowship Calendar	Application period			Fellows Matched to Host Offices		COVES Fellowship			Follow-up, Planning, Fundraising						
			Host Offices Finalized										Application Period		

## **A) 2020 Pilot Funding Structure**

- Participating Universities fund 1 fellow from their university (selected by COVES) at \$10k/fellow
- UVA, VT, VCU, GMU, W&M
- Covers fellow stipend & some activities
- Chan Zuckerberg Initiative funds
- 1 fellow from a Virginia HBCU (VSU, HU, NSU)
- Fellowship coordinator position
- Additional fellowship activities (eg. travel, lunch seminars, initial training)

## **B) Potential Host Offices**

- **Government:** Individual Senator & Delegate Offices, Joint Commission on Technology & Science, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Health, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services
- **Industry:** Dominion Energy
- **NGO:** Virginia Biotechnology Association

## **C) Selected 2020 Fellows**

- Research Areas**
- Clinical Psychology
  - Physics (Nuclear Fusion)
  - Civil Engineering
  - Biomedical Engineering and Mechanics
  - Environmental Science & Public Policy
  - Computer Science
- Degree/Career Stage**
- 1 MS student, 4 PhD students, 1 postdoc

## **4) Other States with Science Policy Fellowships**

State	Fellowship Status	Placement
California	1-year, since 2010	Legislative, Executive (new)
Connecticut	2-year, since 2019	Executive
New Jersey	1-year, since 2019	Executive
Idaho	1-year, inaugural 2020	Executive
Missouri	1-year, inaugural 2020	Legislative
North Carolina	1-year, inaugural 2020	Executive

Modified from Diasio et al. *JSPG* (2020)

## **5) Additional Resources**

Twitter: @COVES\_Fellows

**Recent White Paper: Diasio et al. *JSPG* (2020)**  
[https://www.sciencepolicyjournal.org/article/1038126\\_jspg\\_16\\_01\\_04.html](https://www.sciencepolicyjournal.org/article/1038126_jspg_16_01_04.html)

**COVES Website:**

<http://www.vasem.org/covesfellowship/>

**Q&A:** April 29 12:34-12:36 PM

