Professional Development Program
Learning Goals & Objectives

Through a year-long professional development curriculum, STPF works to complement fellows’ placement experience by enhancing their capacity in four foundational learning areas: Policy and the Federal Government; Communication; Leadership; and, Networking and Career Strategies. Fellows take what they learn in professional development trainings and implement those skills in their fellowship and in future professional interactions.

Professional Development Learning Goals

1) Integrate science and technology expertise with communication and leadership skills to impact policy in the federal government.

2) Build and maintain a network of diverse stakeholders who are committed to utilizing science to inform policy.

Professional Development Learning Objectives

Policy and the Federal Government
Fellows will be able to…

- Examine the complexities between and within the legislative, executive, and/or judicial branches of government on policy formation.
- Analyze the relationship between science and policy in the federal government and the role of diverse stakeholders.
- Evaluate the impact of contemporary societal issues on science and policy.
- Contribute to pathways that encourage the value of scientific thinking in federal agencies.

Communication
Fellows will be able to…

- Demonstrate knowledge of communication processes to facilitate collaboration with stakeholders.
- Defend the importance of effective science communication on outreach and the potential impacts on policy formation.
- Formulate effective oral and written strategies to communicate science to diverse audiences including the public, media, and policymakers.

Leadership
Fellows will be able to…

- Demonstrate an understanding of different models of leadership and the potential impacts on individuals and organizations.
- Develop key leadership skills to promote desired outcomes.
- Integrate social and emotional intelligence with applied leadership models.
- Capitalize on opportunities to serve as science policy leaders in various sectors including academia, government, non-profit, and industry/private sector.

Networking and Career Strategies
Fellows will be able to…

- Develop skills to form networks and achieve career goals.
- Apply appropriate networking techniques to form lasting connections with individuals and organizations within the science policy matrix.