

## Professional Development Program Learning Goals & Objectives

Through a year-long professional development curriculum, the AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellowships (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 use the knowledge and skills they learn in professional development trainings during their fellowship and in future professional interactions.

### **Professional Development Learning Goals**

- 1) Integrate science and technology expertise with inclusive 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.
- 3) Develop science and technology policy knowledge and skills to operate effectively in the federal government.
- 4) Empower fellows as agents of change for advancing science and serving society for all.

### **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.
- Contribute to pathways that advance equity and justice in the science/policy nexus and the federal government.

#### **Communication**

Fellows will be able to...

- Demonstrate knowledge of communication processes to facilitate collaboration with diverse 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. These strategies will:
  - Consider multi-culturally relevant communication spaces to meet intended audiences.
  - Create environments of empathy and mutual respect.
  - Employ storytelling, visual aids, nonverbal cues, and persuasive strategy to convey evidence-based information.
  - Value and promote perspective sharing.
  - Employ active listening techniques.

**Leadership**

Fellows will be able to...

- Demonstrate an understanding of culturally competent models of leadership and the potential impacts on individuals and organizations.
- Develop inclusive leadership skills to promote desired outcomes.
- Integrate social and emotional intelligence with applied leadership models.
- Lead with a perspective that inclusion is a foundational lens to create policy and evaluate its efficacy.
- 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.
- Understand the value of building relationships through diverse networks to increase the quality and dissemination of one's work, and to mitigate one's own implicit biases.
- Apply appropriate networking techniques to form lasting connections with individuals and organizations within the science policy matrix.