



Bipartisan Civic Engagement Initiative

Science, Policy, Advocacy and Communication (SciPAC) at the University of California, San Diego

SciPAC at UC San Diego (UCSD) is a group of graduate students, postdocs and technicians that are dedicated to increasing the public's understanding of science, science communication and science policy. SciPAC seeks to bring UCSD leaders together to create bridges between scientists and policy-making communities. With the Bipartisan Civic Engagement Initiative, SciPAC hosted five experts in climate, engineering and neuroscience alongside three candidates to discuss health care and changing environments in the state of California.

The Science Policy Group at the University of California, San Francisco

The Science Policy Group at UCSF is a coalition of students and postdocs that trains scientists to effectively advocate for science. They host a variety of educational policy workshops and sent 40 UCSF scientists to Capitol Hill to advocate for research funding in 2017. Their Bipartisan Civic Engagement Initiative involved hosting a series of workshops designed to teach scientists to write op-eds, allowing scientists and community members to effectively communicate the importance of research ahead of the midterm elections.

The Science Policy Group at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

The Science Policy Group at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign is an organization of graduate students and researchers that seeks to make science policy non-partisan. They communicate with legislators, inform constituents and prepare scientists for policy-oriented careers. Their Bipartisan Civic Engagement Initiative involved hosting a panel discussion for Illinois 13th Congressional district candidates and researchers to discuss environmental and agricultural policy.

The Johns Hopkins Science Policy Group

The Johns Hopkins Science Policy Group (JHSPG) is an organization of graduate students and post-docs whose mission is to advance science policies that safeguard public health. They organize advocacy events, seminar series and communication workshops that provide opportunities for researchers to engage in science policy and advocacy. With their Bipartisan Civic Engagement Initiative, JHSPG discussed the opioid epidemic, women's health care issues and changing climate with local candidates and the community.

The Missouri Science & Technology Policy Fellows at the University of Missouri

The Missouri Science and Technology (MOST) Policy Fellows program forms a partnership between state legislators, higher education institutions and foundations to advance science and technology policy. MOST Policy Fellows promote long-term health, sustainability and economic growth by equipping legislators with tools to make evidence-based policy decisions. The MOST Fellow's Bipartisan Civic Engagement Initiative brought together five candidates and several environmental and agricultural experts to discuss how research can address health care issues and changing climates.



The Medical University of South Carolina

SC Impact at the Medical University of South Carolina engaged students, residents, faculty and researchers through their “Coffee with the Candidates” bipartisan panel discussion. Through this question- and-answer forum, candidates discussed advances in telemedicine and the research needed to increase our understanding of the opioid epidemic. Local scientists shared their research and highlighted its impact on the economy of South Carolina. Their Bipartisan Civic Engagement Event successfully brought healthcare trainees and candidates together to discuss policy issues important to Charleston.

The Vanderbilt Science Policy Group

Vanderbilt Science Policy Group (VSPG) is a nonpartisan, student-led organization that educates graduate students on science policy issues that could impact people of Tennessee. Their Bipartisan Civic Engagement Initiative engaged science and health care communities to share the importance of research with federal candidates. They demonstrated the role of research in furthering the growth of Tennessee and urged federal candidates to support research funding.

The Science Policy Initiative (SPI) at the University of Virginia

The Science Policy Initiative (SPI) at UVA is an independent organization founded in spring 2017 to enhance awareness of careers in science policy. They seek to empower scientists and engineers to become advocates for science and technology. They host policy-based seminars, annual career panels and Science Policy Symposiums.

Collaborating with SPI on their Bipartisan Civic Engagement initiative, C’ville Comm-UNI-ty is a 501c3 non-profit group based in Charlottesville, VA. C’ville Comm-UNI-ty focuses on improving local STEM literacy and connecting researchers with the public. With the University of Virginia graduate students, Comm-UNI-ty planned the 2018 Charlottesville March for Science: Science Festival and continues to host monthly events to engage the public with science. SPI and C’ville Comm-UNI-ty’s Bipartisan Civic Engagement Initiative involved hosting a community social that allowed local scientists to share their research with candidates.

The Washington Science Policy Network at the University of Washington

The Washington Science Policy Network (WASPN) is a cross-state network of scientific trainees focused on bringing science into civic discourse and advocating for research at the state and federal level. WASPN’s goal is to build a coalition of advocates who push for science funding, evidence-based policy and graduate education. With the Bipartisan Civic Engagement Initiative, WASPN hosted candidates and scientists for a roundtable discussion on research, healthcare and the opioid crisis in Eastern Washington.

Catalysts for Science Policy at the University of Wisconsin, Madison

The Catalysts for Science Policy (CaSP) at the University of Wisconsin, Madison seek to increase public engagement in science policy issues. They educate graduate students about careers in science policy and encourage scientists to become involved in local and national governments. They also educate the community about the contribution of research to local economies. CaSP used the Bipartisan Civic Engagement Initiative to host a workshop that trained early career scientists to share their research with policymakers in attendance.