

CENTER FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY RESEARCH

AAAS CASE WORKSHOP COMPETITION

*Catalyzing Advocacy in
Science and Engineering*

Organized by the American Association for the Advancement of Science and held in Washington, DC, the 3-day workshop is an exciting opportunity for students interested in science policy and communication

2016 AAAS Case Workshop Winners Sarah Welsh-Huggins and Angela Boag speak with Senator Cory Gardner

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Working to improve how science and technology policies address societal needs through research, education and service

AAAS “Catalyzing Advocacy in Science and Engineering” Workshop Student Competition

The Center for Science and Technology Policy Research organizes a competition each winter to select two students from CU Boulder to attend the AAAS CASE workshop, all expenses paid.

The CASE workshop was developed by a number of academic institutions, CU Boulder among them, to give young scientists a chance to experience research advocacy and policy design. Students in the workshop learn about important aspects of government such as the structure of Congress and how the federal budget and appropriations processes proceed. They also learn about communicating science and how to stay engaged in local and national politics.

Students attending the workshop also get a chance to apply what they learn about influencing policy directly: on the last day of the workshop, they form teams and speak with their elected Members of Congress and congressional staff members about a topic of their choice.

This unique opportunity was designed to empower young scientists and encourage science advocacy in an effective, meaningful way. Science communication, an integral component of influencing policy, is an especially important element of the CASE workshop.

According to past competition winners, “Every workshop session, every guest speaker, and especially our interactions with our Colorado Congressmen and their staff demonstrated to me how valuable my technical background in civil engineering may be when advocating for policies that impact and are impacted by advances in specific areas of engineering research and practice.” “Programs that fund certain types of research may be cut or boosted for a myriad of reasons often unrelated to the program itself, and therefore it’s critical for scientists to be their own advocates and frequently share the importance of their work with politicians and the public.”

To learn more about the AAAS CASE Workshop Student Competition visit http://sciencepolicy.colorado.edu/stcert/aaas_competition.html