CONGRESSIONAL VISITS PREP

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OVERALL GOALS FOR CONGRESSIONAL VISITS

Showcase the progress and innovation you are enabling in your communities

- Highlight federal partnership essential to support for engineering
- Dispel any myths or correct misunderstandings

Push for *CHIPS and Science* and competitiveness funding

- Many critical unmet needs for national competitiveness - research, education, innovation
- Cannot lose momentum for our national security

Seek champions for bolstering engineering priorities

Keep positive message on engineering research and education

ASEE CONGRESSIONAL PRIORITIES

Advocate for Funding at Critical Agencies

- National Science Foundation research and education funding
- Department of Defense basic and applied research
- Specific research accounts for other mission agencies (e.g. ARPA-H, Commerce, DOE, NASA, NIH)
- Pell and other student aid

Protect Against Threats to Engineering Schools and Colleges

- Science and Security
- Immigration – high-skilled immigration and student talent pipeline

Inform Education, Research, and STEM Policy

- Research agency reauthorizations (e.g. Defense, Quantum, Computing, NASA)
- *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act* reauthorization – support for work-based learning; involvement of four-year institutions
- *CHIPS and Science* implementation

TALKING POINTS

- Talking points provide a roadmap for discussion with congressional offices
- DO NOT try to cover all topics outlined
  - Tailor discussions to strengths of your college and interests of the Member of Congress
- Weave in relevant student or research success stories when possible
- Talking points document is for internal use and not meant to be a leave behind

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ASEE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR ENGINEERING EDUCATION

EDC Public Policy Colloquium 2023
Talking Points for Meetings with Congressional Office Staff

General Talking Points

- Thank staff for taking the time to meet with you and for their past support, if relevant.
- Introduce all members of your group – note connections to the district or staffer.
- **Tell them about exciting research or student stories from your schools and states. Note the critical federal support** that has enabled these developments and **discuss impacts** in advancing emerging technologies or responding to societal challenges, such as national security, health, equity, or resilience. Highlight your role in creating the **STEM educated workforce** to ensure continued U.S. innovation leadership.
- **Tell them about ASEE** and the Engineering Deans Council: "For over 125 years, the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) has been dedicated to advancing engineering education and research. The ASEE Engineering Deans Council (EDC) is comprised of leaders of 350 public and private engineering colleges across the United States. We are responsible for training the next generation of engineers and computer scientists and running the research facilities where scientific discoveries become the building blocks of innovative new products, industrial processes, and services."
- **Note the passage of *CHIPS and Science* and thank them for support as relevant:** We are excited by the passage of *CHIPS and Science*. This landmark legislation has the potential to supercharge innovation and economic development to meet our national security needs.
- **Discuss fiscal year (FY) 2023 Appropriations:** Thank the offices for the increases to basic research and education programs in FY 2023 appropriations and the supplemental funding provided for *CHIPS and Science* provisions. These investments are essential for enhancing our competitiveness and are a critical down payment to realize the transformational vision of *CHIPS and Science*.
- **Discuss fiscal year (FY) 2024 Appropriations:** Stress the importance of continuing growth for the National Science Foundation and Department of Defense basic research in FY 2024 appropriations. There remain many unfunded needs from *CHIPS and Science* to enable the expanded mission laid out for our innovation enterprise. Congress has shown strong bipartisan support for dramatically increasing funding and we cannot lose momentum. Discuss your involvement in major innovation competitions such as Regional Technology Hubs or Regional Innovation Engines and the need for funding to enable awards that would transform your local region and community.
- **Optional: Raise Additional Special Topics Depending on Meeting Interest**:
  - Thank them for funding ARPA for Health and ensuring it enables research on transformational technologies for improving health through FY 2023 appropriations;
  - Note the role of universities in workforce development and the importance of support for work-based learning and cooperative education in upcoming workforce legislation; or
  - Emphasize the importance of high-skilled immigration as Congress considers a potential immigration package.
- Be sure to **thank the staff** again as the meeting is ending and follow-up with a thank you email.

HANDOUT

- Handout provides a high-level overview of ASEE
- Meant to be used as a leave behind with congressional staff

ASEE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR ENGINEERING EDUCATION

INSPIRING INNOVATION. ADVANCING RESEARCH. ENHANCING EDUCATION.

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR ENGINEERING EDUCATION (ASEE) IS DEDICATED TO ADVANCING ENGINEERING EDUCATION AND RESEARCH.

WHO WE ARE—

ASEE represents the country's schools and colleges of engineering.

Over 12,000 individual members hail from all disciplines of engineering and engineering technology.

Members include engineering educators, researchers, and students as well as industry and government representatives.

The ASEE Engineering Deans Council (EDC) is comprised of leaders of more than 400 public and private engineering colleges across the U.S. We train the next generation of engineers and run the research facilities where scientific discoveries become the building blocks of innovative new products, industrial processes, and services.

ENGINEERING IS EVERYWHERE —

ENGINEERING IS KEY TO OUR EVERYDAY LIVES, AS WE RELY ON SMART PHONES, VEHICLES, ELECTRONICS, MEDICAL DEVICES, AND MANY OTHER TECHNOLOGIES DESIGNED BY ENGINEERS.

Engineering shapes our world and powers our innovation ecosystem and domestic competitiveness. Basic research conducted in engineering schools and colleges around the country catalyzes new industries and revolutionary advances.

A workforce of well-trained engineers in industry and government takes those discoveries and develops transformative new technologies to improve our future. This system is essential to growth and innovation across our economy, and is helping to solve challenges in health, energy, and national security.

The federal government is an essential partner, funding university research and supporting students to enable access to engineering education.

As the pre-eminent authority on the education of engineering professionals, ASEE works to develop the future engineering workforce, expand technology literacy, and convene academic and corporate stakeholders to advance innovation and sound policy.

Find us on Twitter at @ASEE_DC
More information about ASEE is available at www.ASEE.org.
For inquiries please contact Miriam@Lewis-Burke.com. Prepared February 2022.

CONSIDERATIONS TO PREPARE FOR MEETINGS

Make a plan for each meeting

- Who will lead off discussion
  - Deans who are constituents or have connection to staff should lead
- Key topics to address
- Any pitfalls to avoid

Think about who you're meeting with and what will resonate with them

- What committees are they on, leadership positions, caucuses, district assets, etc.
- Brainstorm connected examples of research and student successes
- Have they voted in line with ASEE priorities (e.g. *CHIPS and Science*) – know so you can THANK THEM
- If meeting with staff note their background and issue coverage
  - Are they alums of one of your schools?

Federal Relations Representatives Can Help With This

- If you don't have one for your state group let us know – Lewis-Burke can help