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Rutgers' Eagleton Science and Politics Program Welcomes Leading A.I. Governance Researcher as Rita Allen Civic Science Fellow

New Brunswick, New Jersey (May 2024) – The [Eagleton Science and Politics Program](#) at Rutgers University–New Brunswick is pleased to welcome Dr. Michael Akinwumi, a leading researcher on artificial intelligence governance frameworks, to their team as a Civic Science Fellow. Hosted with support from the Rita Allen Foundation's [Civic Science Fellow program](#), Dr. Akinwumi will research and design tiered and sector-specific guidelines for state-level AI regulation.

Akinwumi serves as the Chief Responsible AI Officer at the [National Fair Housing Alliance](#) (NFHA) where he develops and implements responsible AI policies and guidelines that prioritize fairness, privacy, security, explainability, reliability, and non-algorithmic solutions. His work involves strategic oversight, stakeholder engagement, and advocacy for ethical AI practices. Previously, he specialized in governance engineering and machine learning in financial technology, banking, and insurance. He holds a PhD in Applied Mathematics from the University of Alberta.

Akinwumi will be a part of a highly collaborative program organized by the Rita Allen Foundation aimed at building a network of leaders committed to ensuring that all people shape and benefit from science, technology, and innovation. During his 18-month appointment at the Eagleton Science and Politics Program and working with its director, Dr. Anna Dulencin, Akinwumi will build an AI governance resource for state-level policymakers. The publicly available and searchable database will contain multiple avenues for policy-makers to navigate and regulate the complexity, challenges, and benefits of AI in a matrix of transience of the current technological landscape and rapidly evolving innovation.

“The mission of the Eagleton Science and Politics Program is to help bridge policymaking with sound scientific evidence,” remarks Dulencin. “The final governance guidelines will support this goal by presenting various approaches to AI regulation of different sectors such as insurance, data privacy, education, criminal justice, elections, and many others.”

"AI will shape every aspect of our society. It is therefore imperative to ensure that state legislators are equipped with the necessary tools to effectively govern AI risks and foster interstate collaboration. My Eagleton Civic Science Fellowship aims to develop such tools, ensuring AI serves the public good," says Akinwumi. "I'm grateful to the Rita Allen Foundation for their support."

“Artificial intelligence is a vivid example of the need for cross-cutting approaches to ensure that science and innovation work in the public interest as part of our civic fabric,” said Elizabeth Good Christopherson, president and chief executive officer of the Rita Allen Foundation. “It presents complex questions that scientists, policymakers, technologists, and communities need to answer together. We

are excited to see the tools and insights Dr. Akinwumi develops as part of the vibrant Eagleton team and a diverse cohort of Fellows, to help build those bridges and broaden benefits for our shared future.”

Learn more about the [Eagleton Science and Politics Program](#) and the [Rita Allen Civic Science Fellows Program](#).

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The Eagleton Science and Politics Program

[The Eagleton Science and Politics Program](#) explores: how science, technology, and American politics intersect; the political systems that connect them; and how deeper understanding and clearer communication within and across these disciplines can benefit policymakers, scientists, and the larger public.

The Eagleton Institute of Politics

[The Eagleton Institute of Politics](#) at Rutgers University—New Brunswick studies how American politics and government work and change, analyzes how the democracy might improve, and promotes political participation and civic engagement. The Institute explores state and national politics through research, education, and public service, linking the study of politics with its day-to-day practice.

Rutgers—New Brunswick

[Rutgers University—New Brunswick](#) is where Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, began more than 250 years ago. Ranked among the world’s top 60 universities, Rutgers’s flagship is a leading public research institution and a member of the prestigious Association of American Universities. It has an internationally acclaimed faculty, 12 degree—granting schools and the Big Ten Conference’s most diverse student body