



2025-2026 EAGLETON SCIENCE AND POLITICS FELLOWS

Eagleton Science and Politics Fellowship

The Eagleton Science and Politics Fellowship places doctoral-level scientists, engineers, and healthcare professionals in New Jersey state government for a year of public service. Fellows contribute their technical expertise to policymaking while developing the skills and insights needed to bridge the worlds of science and politics.



NJ Senate Majority Office | Legislative Science Fellow

EMILY BOLTCREED

Stevens Institute of Technology – Biomedical Engineering

Dr. Emily Boltcreed holds a B.S. in Biomedical Physics from Northeastern University and earned both her M.S. and Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering from Stevens Institute of Technology. She completed her postdoctoral research in Developmental Neuroscience at the New York State Psychiatric Institute, affiliated with Columbia University Irving Medical Center. A passionate advocate for STEM education, Dr. Boltcreed served as a Corps Member

with Teach For America and has led science education initiatives for learners ranging from kindergarteners to college seniors. Her interdisciplinary training across quantitative and life sciences informs her commitment to making complex scientific ideas accessible and actionable in policy settings. Outside of her professional work, she is an avid long-distance runner and enthusiastic reader of niche nonfiction.



NJ Assembly Majority Office | Legislative Science Fellow

SOPHIA VICENTE

Virginia Tech – Engineering Education

Sophia Vicente holds a Ph.D. in Engineering Education and a Masters of Engineering in Industrial and Systems Engineering from Virginia Tech, as well as a Bachelors of Industrial Engineering from Penn State. With over seven years of experience in engineering education, her research focuses on experiential learning, engineering internships, and workforce development. In the classroom, Sophia has worked with over six undergraduate

and graduate courses. Beyond academia, Sophia has also served as a 2024 Mirzayan Science and Technology Policy Fellow at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine with the Science and Engineering Capacity Development Unit and has led research and assessment efforts for the Student Opportunities in Applied Research (SOAR) internship program at Penn State's Applied Research Lab. Sophia is passionate about bridging research, practice, and policy to advance STEM education and workforce development.



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NJ Department of Human Services | Executive Science Fellow

LINDSEY FERNANDEZ

University of Pennsylvania – Computational Cancer Modeling

Dr. Lindsey Fernandez holds a B.S. in biomedical engineering and computer engineering from Johns Hopkins University and a Ph.D. in bioengineering from the University of Pennsylvania. Her research focused on identifying biological mechanisms that drive patient-to-patient differences in cancer treatment efficacy and developing personalized, predictive models for combination therapy. While at Penn, she led the Penn Science Policy and

Diplomacy Group, training scientists to engage in science policy, diplomacy, and communication, as well as the Penn Postdoc Association and National Postdoc Association, advocating for policies that promote fair treatment, professional development, and well-being of postdoctoral researchers. Her policy work has spanned prescription drug pricing, vaccine equity, digital privacy, telemedicine expansion, equitable tree cover, and visa renewal support. In her free time, Lindsey enjoys playing pickleball, learning to surf, and working in her local community garden.



NJ Board of Public Utilities | Climate Action Science Fellow

ZACHARY GOLDBERG

Penn State University – Geography

Zach is an environmental geographer interested in ecological and political aspects of food, energy, and water resource systems. His doctoral research at Penn State focused on grid-scale solar energy development on farmland in the eastern United States, examining issues related to land use change, environmental governance, and energy justice. During graduate school, he participated in multi-disciplinary and organizational environmental research

related to solar energy development and partnered with state and federal government agencies and centers, including the EPA's National Wetland Condition Assessment, New York State Research and Development Authority, and Center for Rural Pennsylvania. He also instructed introductory and advanced undergraduate environmental geography courses. Zach holds a B.S. in Environmental and Agricultural Science from McGill University.



NJ Board of Public Utilities | Climate Action Science Fellow

IRAM MANSOOR

Rutgers University – Chemistry and Chemical Biology

Iram F. Mansoor, Ph.D., is an inorganic chemist and science policy advocate with expertise in fundamental electron transfer reactivity and how that understanding can be applied to address modern-day challenges in electrochemistry and materials science, particularly for renewable energy and smart technology applications. She earned her doctorate in Chemistry from Rutgers University, where she focused on the design and study of electroactive

molecular building blocks as model systems for larger, extended conductive materials with tunable electronics for targeted applications. Iram brings experience advancing science-informed policy and graduate student leadership. She directed policy initiatives at Rutgers to bridge scientists and policymakers, and as President of the Chemistry Graduate Student Association, she developed programs to support graduate students' professional growth. Her leadership has been recognized with the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship.



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NJ Board of Public Utilities | Climate Action Science Fellow

CAROLYN SCHAEFER

University of Wisconsin–Madison – Nuclear Engineering and Engineering Physics

Carolyn studied Nuclear Engineering and Engineering Physics at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. Prior to graduate school, she earned a B.S. in Nuclear Science and Engineering with a minor in Energy Studies from MIT. An interest in carbon-free energy solutions led her to doctoral research in experimental plasma physics with applications to nuclear fusion energy. At UW–Madison, she worked on a fusion research device, using both

computational tools and experimental data to study plasmas driven with advanced startup techniques. She also founded a student group for women and gender minorities in plasma physics, through which she regularly engaged with local communities about energy, gender representation, and science in general. She is passionate about making scientific information accessible to diverse audiences, and she is interested in the intersection of science and policymaking, particularly in the context of energy and climate.



NJ Board of Public Utilities | Climate Action Science Fellow

HAO (NICK) ZHANG

Johns Hopkins University – Materials Science and Engineering

Dr. Nick Zhang is a Materials Scientist from Johns Hopkins University and NIST, where he studied the conversion of greenhouse gases into clean fuels to promote a circular economy and mitigate the effects of climate change. At Hopkins, Nick held several leadership roles, including chair of the student government and VP of the science policy group. As an American Chemical Society ambassador, he co-led projects at the United Nations COP

conferences, focusing on climate literacy. Nick also interned at the State Department, researching green hydrogen and critical minerals policies in 20+ countries. As a Mirzayan Fellow at the National Academies, he conducts qualitative analysis using AI tools and engages with stakeholders from the Government, University, Industry, and Philanthropy sectors on S&T policies. Before joining Hopkins, Nick obtained a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from UC Berkeley and gained technical experience in national labs and private sectors. Nick is passionate about science policy and has interests in emerging technologies, energy, environment, education, and workforce development.