



# Enhancing S&T Capacity in Congress: Exploring Key Issues and Pathways

November 20, 2019

---

## OPENING AND CLOSING REMARKS



### ZACH GRAVES

*Head of Policy, Lincoln Network*

[@ZacharyGraves](#)

Zach Graves is the head of policy at the Lincoln Network, where his work focuses on the intersection of technology and governance issues. Prior to Lincoln, he was founder and former director of the R Street Institute's technology and innovation policy program. Before R Street, he previously worked at the Cato Institute and the America's Future Foundation. Zach is a 18-19' technology and democracy fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School's Ash Center, an associate fellow at the R Street Institute, and a visiting fellow at

the National Security Institute at George Mason University's Antonin Scalia Law School. He holds a master's degree from the California Institute of the Arts and a bachelor's degree from the University of California at Davis.

---



### FRANZ WUERFMANNSDOBLER

*Senior Advisor, Bipartisan Policy Center*

Franz Wuerfmannsdobler is a BPC senior advisor. He has more than two decades of congressional experience. During his tenure on Capitol Hill, he worked in the offices of U.S. Senators Robert Byrd (WV), Byron Dorgan (ND), and Chris Coons (DE), the last of which he served as the deputy chief of staff and senior policy advisor. He also served on the Senate Appropriations Committee. His policy portfolio has included energy, environment, science and technology, appropriations, and budget issues. During his congressional service, he sought to find

common ground approaches in order to advance major legislative and policy initiatives. Building on these experiences, he is dedicated to improving public discourse and restoring civic trust.

Prior to his time in the U.S. Senate, Wuerfmannsdobler worked in the Department of State's Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs. He has a MSc. in environmental management and policy from Oxford University and a B.A. in cultural studies and history from the University of Denver. He was a Stennis Congressional Fellow during the 114th Congress and received the *Unsung Hero Award* from the Alliance to Save Energy in 2008.

---

## PRESENTATION



### **DR. JON TUCKER**

*Project Director and Senior Analyst, National Academy of Public Administration*

Jon Tucker is a senior analyst and project director at the Academy. His areas of expertise include: strategic planning/foresight, organizational design, change management, and S&T/innovation policy. His public management consulting experience includes projects with seventeen federal agencies. In addition to his consulting activities, Jon contributes to the work of the Academy's Strategic Foresight Panel (part of the broader Academy Transition 2016 initiative). Jon also has experience assessing science and technology policies and programs, with a focus on supporting innovation. He has worked for organizations including Battelle; the National Research Council; the National Institute of Standards and Technology; and the New York State Department of Economic Development. He holds a Ph.D. in Public Policy (with a concentration in Science and Technology Policy) from George Mason University, an M.S. in Science and Technology Studies from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and a B.A. from New College of Florida.

---

## PANEL I



### **DR. ROBERT COOK-DEEGAN**

*Professor, School for the Future of Innovation in Society, Arizona State University*

[@cookdeegan](#)

Dr. Robert Cook-Deegan is a professor in the School for the Future of Innovation in Society, and with the Consortium for Science, Policy and Outcomes at Arizona State University. He founded and directed Duke's Center for Genome Ethics, Law & Policy (2002-2012), and Duke-in-Washington through June 2016. Prior to Duke, he was with the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine (1991-2002); National Center for Human Genome Research (1989-1990); and congressional Office of Technology Assessment (1982-1988). His research interests include science policy, health policy, biomedical research, cancer, and intellectual property. He is the author of "The Gene Wars: Science, Politics, and the Human Genome" and more than 250 other publications.

---



## **DR. TIM PERSONS**

*Chief Scientist, Government Accountability Office*

Dr. Tim Persons is GAO's Chief Scientist and one of two Managing Directors of the Science, Technology Assessment, and Analytics team. The team conducts technology assessments, provides oversight of federal science and technology programs, provides technical assistance on science and technologies issues to the Congress, and develops innovative analytical techniques for carrying out audits and evaluations.

Tim joined GAO in July 2008. Prior to that, he served in key executive roles at the Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity (IARPA) and the National Security Agency. Dr. Persons received his B.Sc. in Physics from James Madison University, his M.Sc. in Nuclear Physics from Emory University, and his M.Sc. in Computer Science and Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering from Wake Forest University.

---

## **PANEL II**



## **NANCY OGNANOVICH**

*Senior Congressional Correspondent, Bloomberg Government*

[@NOgnanovich](#)

Nancy Ognanovich covers congressional leadership for Bloomberg Government. In that capacity she covers the legislative agenda and the annual budget and appropriations process. Previously she was White House reporter from Bloomberg BNA and followed issues ranging from defense to tax policy. Earlier in her career with BNA she had several other beats in Congress, including transportation and energy policy. She is from Minnesota and earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota and a masters degree from

Marquette University.

---



## **YURI BECKELMAN**

*Deputy Chief of Staff, Rep. Mark Tanako*

[@YuriBeckelman](#)

Yuri Beckelman currently serves as the deputy chief of staff and legislative director for Congressman Mark Takano of California, where he assists the congressman in his duties on the Science, Space and Technology and Veterans Affairs Committees. His policy portfolio includes Technology, Energy, Trade and Foreign Affairs.

He started and currently helps run a hands-on digital training program for staffers, organizes a new online tools for Capitol Hill and helped set up the Congressional Maker Caucus. Born and raised in San Francisco, California, his first stint on Capitol Hill was as a staff assistant to then Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, his hometown congresswoman.

---



## DANIEL SCHUMAN

*Policy Director, Demand Progress*

Daniel Schuman is policy director at Demand Progress, a research and advocacy organization with over two million members. Daniel leads the organization’s efforts on a range of policy issues, with a particular focus on transparency and civil liberties. Daniel is also co-founder and director of the Advisory Committee on Transparency, an assortment of transparency groups that provide advice to the Congressional Transparency Caucus.

Prior to joining Demand Progress, Daniel served as the policy director for Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW), as the policy counsel with the Sunlight Foundation, and at a number of other civil society organizations. He also worked for the Congressional Research Service as a legislative attorney. He is a nationally recognized expert on federal transparency, accountability, and capacity and has testified before Congress and appeared on NPR, C-SPAN, and other news outlets. Daniel graduated cum laude from Emory University School of Law.

---



## ADAM KEIPER

*Senior Editor, The New Atlantis*

Adam Keiper is a consulting editor at *Issues in Science and Technology*, a magazine published by the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine and Arizona State University. Before that, he was the Books & Arts editor of the *Weekly Standard* until that magazine was closed in 2018.

For more than a decade, he was the editor of *The New Atlantis: A Journal of Technology and Society*, which he co-founded in 2003, and the editor of its New Atlantis Books series. He remains a senior editor at *The New Atlantis*, and is also a contributing editor to *The American Interest*, *National Affairs*, and *Current*. He was also a longtime fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center, where he directed the program on Science, Technology, and Society. He researches, writes, and lectures on the social and political implications of modern science and technology.

---



## DR. DEBORAH STINE

*President, Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy Analysis & Education*

Dr. Deborah D. Stine is a freelance consultant, policy analyst, writer, video producer, professor, teacher, trainer, and study director. During her over 30-year career, she's been fortunate to work for some of the top organizations in the country: the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine; the Congressional Research; the Obama Administration’s President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology; and Carnegie Mellon University. Prior to coming to the Academies, she was a mathematician for the Air Force, an air-pollution

engineer for the state of Texas, and an air-issues manager for the Chemical Manufacturers Association. She holds a BS in mechanical and environmental engineering from the University of California, Irvine, an MBA from what is now Texas A&M at Corpus Christi, and a PhD in public administration with a focus on science and technology policy analysis from American University.

---

