

IEEE-USA GOVERNMENT FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS

Linking IEEE Members With Government

Becky Taylor

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Government Fellows Program

Objectives

Estab. 1973

- Give IEEE Members **first-hand experience** with the legislative and foreign policymaking processes
- Improve their understanding of how public policy impacts the science and technical professions
- Provide much needed **technical advice** and information **to Congress and State Department**
- *Most importantly,* to **encourage interest and participation** in public policymaking **among the IEEE-USA membership**

Basics

More than 90 U.S. IEEE Members have served as Government Fellows since 1973

Each year, IEEE-USA recruits a max of 3 Fellows:

- Congressional Fellow(s)
- State Department (“Engineering & Diplomacy”) Fellow(s)

“The fellowship program has been one of the most important initiatives in good government in the past century.” -- Congressman Rush Holt (NJ), Former Congressional Fellow

Government Fellowship Assignments

- Two-week Fellowship orientation under auspices of AAAS in the September preceding Fellowship
- Congressional Fellows interview with offices of their choice from among offices interested in having Fellows House or Senate; Member or Committee
- State Dept. Fellows interview with interested Offices or Bureaus (functional or regional)
- One-year assignment in Washington DC (Jan.-Dec.)

Qualifications - Congressional

Applicant must be:

- An IEEE Member at time of application
- A U.S. Citizen
- BS in any of the IEEE Designated Fields & 10+ yrs professional experience;
OR MS in any of the IEEE Designated Fields & 5+ yrs professional experience;
OR PhD/ Post-doc in any of the IEEE Designated Fields – no experience required

Qualifications – State Department

Applicant must be:

- An IEEE Member at time of application
- A U.S. Citizen
- BS in any of the IEEE Designated Fields & 10+ yrs professional experience;
OR MS in any of the IEEE Designated Fields & 5+ yrs professional experience;
OR PhD/ Post-doc in any of the IEEE Designated Fields – no experience required
- **MUST** possess or be able to obtain a security clearance prior to the beginning of the fellowship
- Language skills/ international experience a plus

2011 Fellows

2011 Fellows



Becky Taylor, Umesh Thakkar, Patrick Meyer



Who should be applying

- Ph.D.s and Post-docs debating a career path
- Mid-career professionals looking to apply their experience to public policy
- “Post-career” scientists and engineers ready for next phase
- Minorities & under-represented groups
- Any IEEE Member interested in making S&T policy and providing timely advice and assistance to Congress on national issues such as global warming, alternative energy, STEM education, patent reform, etc..

2012 Stipend

- \$55,000-\$65,000 annual Fellowship stipend depending on experience
- \$5,000 Relocation allowance
- Some employers continue financial support to supplement fellowship (ie. sabbatical)
- IEEE-USA reimburses expenses incurred for travel and housing during orientation and interviews

Selection Process

- Government Fellows Committee (6 members) reviews applications; invites selected candidates to an in-person interview
- State Department participates in the selection of the “Engineering & Diplomacy” Fellow
- GFC evaluates basic qualifications, education, experience, public service, IEEE volunteer activities, communication skills, Fellowship goals, and intangibles.
- 2013 Application Deadline: March 16, 2012
- Interviews: April 2012

2008 Congressional Fellow Sherry Gillespie



A Fellowship Experience

- Sherry Gillespie – 2008 Cong. Fellow
- Personal Office of Sen. Joe Lieberman
- Broad range of projects: science/policy
- Highlight: draft legislation that passed!
FY09 NDAA (P.L. 110-417), Sec. 254
Trusted Defense Systems
 - Signed into law 10/14/08
- Every fellowship experience unique

The Legislation – Sec. 254

- Addresses the issue of “trust” in integrated circuits for defense systems
- Assess and prioritize vulnerabilities
- Increase use of Trusted Foundries
- Apply trust verification techniques
- Develop policies, strategies and actions to assure trust
- Report back to Congress

Examples of Projects as Congressional Fellow

- Briefings with DOD, NSA, DARPA
- “Dear Colleague” letters
- Space Suit Competition
- Recommendations on leg. amendments
- Meetings with constituents
- White paper on Nanotechnology
- Weekly staff meetings

Sherry Gillespie with Senator Lieberman



After the Fellowship

- Consultation project on the aftermath of the legislation
- Currently Senior Fellow with the Potomac Institute for Policy Studies
- Member of the IEEE-USA R&D Policy Committee
- Chair of the IEEE-USA Government Fellowships Committee
- Moved to Washington DC !

2011 Engineering & Diplomacy Fellow Rebecca Taylor



A Fellowship Experience

- Rebecca Taylor – 2011 E&D Fellow, US State Department
- Office of the Science & Technology Adviser to the Secretary of State
- Senior Advisor, Innovation & Entrepreneurship
- Wide range of exposure, many related to startups and universities in most regions of the world

Getting Settled

- ❑ Interview phase is CRITICAL to overall outcomes and success of fellowship
- ❑ Very self-directed
- ❑ Very externally focused
- ❑ Foreign language study
- ❑ Embassy Relationships

A Few Examples

- Emphasis on advisory capacity
- Wide range of informal requests for insights into software/hardware issues
 - Comms Standards, Cybersecurity
- Volunteered for duty on Libyan task force
- Western Hemisphere clean energy speakers bureau
- Initiating better connection of US startups to “thinking & doing” of DoS
- Service in WHA and EUR

Day in the Life

- Leading new interaction with other agencies (e.g. DoD, NASA), rapidly source new technologies into DoS
- Technology gap assessments for arms control verification
- Startup “connector”
- Global S&T links
- Open competitions
- Technology competition judging

How to Apply

Additional information and application forms available online at:

<http://www.ieeeusa.org/policy/govfel/default.asp>

Also see article on Fellowships in December 2011 issue of IEEE-USA Today's Engineer on-line