AAAS Fellows Learn EPA Ways

Plummeting state budgets can mean tough times for researchers at state universities, as Northeast Louisiana University meteorologist Eric Pani knows all too well. "When you're not in a [well-funded] research environment," he says, "it's easy to fall behind with what's going on in the field."

But this summer Pani is doing plenty of research as a AAAS Environmental Science and Engineering Fellow at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Washington, D.C. As one of ten EPA Fellows, Pani is studying how pollutants shift from the lower parts of the atmosphere into the troposphere and how that affects global climate.

The goal of the 10-week summer program coordinated by AAAS is to bridge the worlds of science and policy for the good of the Fellows as well as the EPA, says AAAS program manager Claudia Sturges. EPA project officer Karen Morehouse agrees.

"The Fellows allow the EPA to get a project going that might [go undone] because of staffing" that is tight or limited to certain fields, says Morehouse. She offers the example of 1991 Fellow Mary Bober, a University of California physiologist who is investigating a new method to determine the toxicity of water through use of genetic tests.

As for Bober, "Working for the EPA gives [me] a perspective on what's involved in environmental decision making on the federal level."

That kind of real-world understanding, says Morehouse, is perhaps the most important reason EPA has chosen to fund the AAAS program for the last 10 years.

"The Fellows go away with a very much revised idea of not only what EPA is like, but what the entire federal decision-making process is like," says Morehouse. "[They learn] how to make proposals that win."

—CHRISTINA STEEN JENSEN

Call for SLAAS Delegate

AAAS has been invited to send a delegate to the 47th Annual Session of the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (SLAAS), set for 2 to 6 December 1991 in Colombo. The theme: "Science for Everyday Life." The delegate is invited to deliver a lecture to the relevant SLAAS section. Members who will be in the area in December or who know of colleagues on sabbatical in the region should contact Laura Mann at AAAS, 202-326-6664 before 1 October. If interested, please send a C.V. along with your application to Mann at AAAS, Directorate for International Programs, 1333 H St., NW, Washington, DC 20005. Although no travel funds are available, AAAS will provide per diem for the meeting.
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