Overall Goals for Congressional Visits

- Dispel myths and showcase the progress and innovation you are enabling in your communities
- Highlight federal partnership essential to support for engineering
- Keep momentum going on growth to federal investments in research and education
- Seek champions for bolstering engineering priorities
- Keep positive message on engineering research and education while protecting against threats

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Talking Points

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EDC Public Policy Colloquium 2019
Talking Points for Meetings with Congressional Office Staff

General Talking Points

- Thank them for taking the time to meet with you and for their past support, if relevant.
- Introduce all members of your group – note connections to the district or staffer.
- **Ask about their interests** – for example, ask about what technologies they depend on in their daily life or a major national challenge that concerns them.
    - Connect their answer to major engineering advances or to research activity at your institutions –"there are many researchers at my institution working to solve X challenge," or "you may know that engineering research played a huge role in enabling Y technology," or "many of our students work in Z field designing new technologies."
- **Tell them about exciting research or student stories from your schools and states. Note the critical federal support** that has enabled these developments and discuss impacts on national security, the economy, or other societal challenges. Highlight the role of universities in creating the **STEM educated workforce** to ensure continued U.S. innovation leadership.
- **Tell them about ASEE** and the Engineering Deans Council: "The American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) is dedicated to advancing engineering education and research. The ASEE Engineering Deans Council (EDC) is comprised of leaders of more than 400 public and private engineering colleges across the United States. We are responsible for training the next generation of engineers and running the research facilities where scientific discoveries become the building blocks of innovative new products, industrial processes, and services."
- **Express relief that the shutdown has ended for now.** Note the negative impacts of the shutdown on your school and on NSF-funded research. It is imperative that Congress come to a final deal for FY 2019 appropriations to provide certainty and a needed boost in funding.
- **Thank them for increases to research and education funding in FY 2019**, including to defense basic research, and express hope that the momentum can continue in FY 2020 with a new budget deal to enable investments in critical research and workforce development efforts.
- **Talk about the importance of the federal partnership** with universities: "The federal government partnership with universities has played an essential role in creating the modern world and technologies we all depend on through support for research advances and training the next generation of engineers. We see many exciting opportunities on the horizon for research and lots of excitement from students, and want to make sure that this partnership continues to be enhanced despite federal threats."
    - Challenges/threats you can mention (choose depending on meeting focus):
        - Funding uncertainty and threatened cuts with no budget deal for FY 2020 and beyond.
        - Uncertainty of future policies affecting eligibility for research funding relating to international research partnerships and science security.
        - An immigration climate that deters many of the best international students from applying.
- Be sure to thank the staff again when you leave and follow-up with an email thank you.

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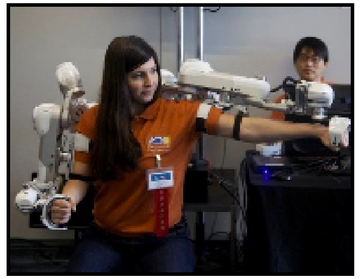
Handout

ASEE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR ENGINEERING EDUCATION

Inspiring Innovation. Advancing Research. Enhancing Education.

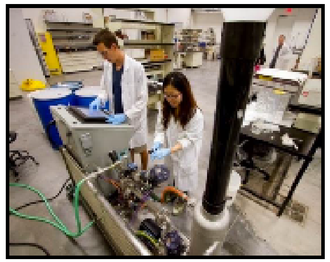
ENGINEERING IS EVERYWHERE— Engineering is key to our everyday lives, as we rely on smart phones, vehicles, electronics, medical devices, and many other technologies designed by engineers.



Engineering shapes our world and powers our innovation ecosystem. Basic research conducted in engineering schools and colleges around the country catalyzes new industries and revolutionary advances. A workforce of well-trained engineers in industry and government takes those discoveries and develops transformative new technologies to improve our future. This system is essential to growth and innovation across our economy, and is helping to solve challenges in health, energy, and national security. The federal government is an essential partner, funding university research and supporting students to enable access to engineering education.

The American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) is dedicated to advancing engineering education and research, and the only society representing the country's schools and colleges of engineering. Membership includes over 12,000 individuals hailing from all disciplines of engineering and engineering technology and comprising of engineering educators, researchers, and students as well as industry and government representatives. The ASEE Engineering Deans Council (EDC) is comprised of leaders of more than 400 public and private engineering colleges across the United States. We are responsible for training the next generation of engineers and running the research facilities where scientific discoveries become the building blocks of innovative new products, industrial processes, and services.

The U.S. college-educated engineering workforce totaled 1.7 million people in 2015,[1] the most jobs of any STEM discipline, and the demand for engineering is only growing. As the pre-eminent authority on the education of engineering professionals, ASEE works to develop the future engineering workforce, expand technology literacy, and convene academic and corporate stakeholders to advance innovation and sound policy.



[1]National Science Board. 2018. Science and Engineering Indicators 2018. NSB-2018-1. Alexandria, VA: National Science Foundation.

More information about ASEE is available at www.ASEE.org.
For inquiries please contact Miriam@Lewis-Burke.com. Prepared January 2019.

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Considerations for Visit Preparations

- Make a plan for each meeting
  - –Who will lead off discussion
  - –Key topics to address
  - –Any pitfalls to avoid

- Consider Member priorities and connected examples of research and student successes
  - –Connect to committee assignments or leadership positions, district assets, etc.

- If meeting with staff note their background and issue coverage

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