Mission of APA Policy Fellowships

- Educate psychologists on the structure, processes, and functions of government
- Contribute to more effective use of psychological knowledge in government and educate government officials about psychologists’ skills and the benefits of psychological science and practice
- Provide substantive policy experiences to inform fellows’ career paths
Executive Branch Science Fellowship

- Serve as special assistant in executive branch science mission agency, typically research funding and coordinating office
- Uniquely tailored to one Fellow each year (e.g., placement, mentoring)
- Broad range of federal agencies and offices host fully funded fellows
- Targeted mentoring and travel opportunities
Executive Branch Placements

- National Science Foundation
- National Institutes of Health
- US Agency for International Development
- White House Office of Science and Technology Policy
- Department of Defense
- Department of Education
- Department of Justice
- Federal Bureau of Investigation Academy
Executive Branch Science Fellows

- Demonstrated excellence in scientific psychology
- Understand the application of psychological knowledge to national research and policy issues
- Ability to work quickly, communicate on a wide variety of topics, work cooperatively with individuals with diverse viewpoints
Congressional Fellowship

- Following congressional placement process, work as staff for member of Congress or congressional committee

- Engage in all aspects of policymaking:
  - Drafting briefs, speeches, and legislation
  - Taking meetings with constituents, experts, and lobbyists
  - Staffing members at public events and hearings

- Participate in professional development activities throughout year
Congressional Fellowships

- General
- Catherine Acuff
- William A. Bailey
- Jacquelin Goldman
Congressional Fellows

- Demonstrated competence in scientific and/or professional psychology
- Demonstrated interest in policy issues
- Hold strong interest in applying psychological knowledge to address societal challenges
- Ability to work quickly, communicate effectively on a wide variety of topics, and work cooperatively with individuals with diverse viewpoints
APA Fellowship Programs Support

- Stipend and assistance for purchase of health insurance, relocation, and professional development travel
- AAAS professional development
- APA professional mentorship and development
  - Orientation
  - Monthly luncheons
  - Connect Fellows with potential mentors
  - Attendance at APA Convention
Impact of Fellowships

- “My year as an APA Science Policy Fellow allowed me to see the workings of the federal government from a very comprehensive level...to move from traditional research and clinical perspectives to see how psychologists and other social behavioral scientists can come to the table and have an invaluable impact in the public policy arena.”

  Tamara Jackson, PhD, 2002-2003 Executive Branch Fellow, Office of Science and Technology Policy of Executive Office of the President

- “My Congressional Fellowship provided an incomparable opportunity to ‘give psychology away’ in promoting human welfare.”

  Diane Marsh, PhD, 2003-2004 Acuff Fellow, Senator Jeff Bingaman (D-NM)
“Being an APA fellow has been an extraordinary opportunity to learn about and contribute to public policy and aging issues.”

Greg Hinrichsen, PhD (center), Congressional Fellow, 2007-2008 class, with supervisor Nicole Tapay (left) and boss, Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR) (right)
Applying for the Fellowships

- 2014-2015 program applications due Jan 3 2014
- Online applications materials
- Curriculum Vitae
- Statement of approximately 1,000 words
- Three letters of reference
- Separate applications required for the Congressional and Executive Branch Science Fellowships
- Single application for specialty Congressional Fellowships
2012-2013 APA Policy Fellows

Left to right: Edwin Tan, PhD, Jacquelyn White, PhD, and Drika Weller, PhD
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http://www.apa.org/about/gr/fellows/