

D.C. Days, 2017

Four faculty members and three staff members attended the fourth annual trip to Washington, D.C. from May 22-24, 2017. The OARDC Director's Office and the Grant Development Support Unit designed D.C. Days to allow early career faculty members to meet with federal program officers and learn more about submitting research proposals to federal agencies.

Day one began at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) where faculty members learned about different programs and opportunities, such as the USAID Innovation Labs, Feed the Future, and the USAID Global Development Lab. USAID staff emphasized the importance of international research, as well as the need for "big data" analysis. After lunch, the group headed to the National Science Foundation (NSF), where program officers gave an overview of grant opportunities and allowed faculty members to ask specific questions about NSF research and the merit review process.

Day two started at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) where our National Institute of Food



From L-R: Megan Meuti, Căzilia Loibl, Melissa Burant, Kimberly Lightle, Keeley J. Pratt, Valente B. Alvarez, Anne Lichens-Park, Not pictured: Pam Schlegel

and Agriculture (NIFA) state liaison, Anne Lichens-Park, aided in scheduling meetings with the Director of NIFA, Sonny Ramaswamy, and individual meetings with NIFA program leaders. Director Ramaswamy discussed NIFA's strategic priorities and new initiatives, welcoming questions from the group. The afternoon was spent at the OSU Office of Government Affairs where attendees connected with OSU public officials and learned more about the office, which facilitates the development, implementation and advocacy of the University's federal agenda.

On the final day, attendees visited the National Institutes of Health (NIH) campus in Bethesda, MD. The group met with NIH program officers who provided a detailed presentation of the different types of grants offered at NIH, as well as a discussion about

grantsmanship. This was followed by an afternoon tour of the NIH Clinical Center.

"I not only greatly enjoyed getting to meet the program officers, but also other faculty and the grants support staff from OSU."

-Dr. Megan Meuti, Assistant Professor of Entomology

If you are interested in joining our D.C. Days trip in 2018, be on the lookout for more information about the selection process and application submission deadlines. Attendees are chosen based on a variety of factors from a pool of applicants in the fall. For specific questions about the program, feel free to contact us at the email address listed below.

Since its inception in 2014, 15 early-career faculty members and 5 college administrators have been able to participate in the program.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
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