

DC DAYS 2019

Since 2013, the CFAES Office for Research and Graduate Education, Grant Development Support Unit has been organizing the DC Days program. This program supports newer faculty members to travel to Washington, DC, allowing them to visit federal agencies and program officers. Additionally, the program provides an opportunity for faculty to network and increase collaboration across departments and even colleges.

This year, 10 faculty members and 3 administrative staff from the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES) attended the DC Days trip from May 5-8. In recent years, the College of Education and Human Ecology (EHE) has accompanied our group. This year, an additional 12 EHE faculty and 3 staff members joined, making this the largest trip yet.

The night before the first agency visits, attendees participated in an all-group dinner to discuss what to expect when visiting a federal agency and how to talk with program officers. Attendees are highly encouraged to participate in this dinner, to make the most of their time in DC.

Agency visits began with the National Science Foundation (NSF), where Steve Ellis spoke about their specific programs and priorities. After lunch, the group travelled to the National Institutes of Health (NIH). One presentation, *Finding the Right Funding Opportunity & Navigating Your Career with NIH*, spoke specifically to early



From L-R: Andrea Gschwend, Sarah Short, Mary T. Rodriguez, Christine Sprunger, Jonathan M. Jacobs, Pam Schlegel, Chris Zhu (EHE), Matt Hamilton, and Matt Davies

Not pictured: Lori Kaser, Ingrid Adams, Zoë Plakias, Ye Xia, Gary Pierzynski

career faculty.

Day two began at the OSU Office of Government Affairs, where participants learned more about how our partners in DC can assist with sponsored projects. Afterwards, the group heard from representatives from the Department of Defense, a first time on the trip.

The afternoon was spent at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to learn more about their specific funding opportunities, such as the Specialty Crop Research Initiative and the Sustainable Agricultural Systems program. The USDA is consistently one of the top funders of land-grant institutions, providing almost \$9 million in research capacity funding to our college in 2018.

The final stop on day three was the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), where program officers

discussed the National Center for Environmental Research (NCER) and related funding opportunities. At least 12 faculty scheduled additional meetings with program officers, further maximizing their time on the hill.

"I thought it was a helpful experience... meeting with program officers and hearing about the types of research objectives each agency is interested in funding."

**-Dr. Andrea Gschwend
Assistant Professor, HCS**

Of faculty that attended the 2019 trip, **100%** would recommend other junior faculty participate in the experience. If you are interested in joining the next trip, the 2020 Request for Applications will be posted on [our website](https://grants.cfaes.ohio-state.edu/gdsu@osu.edu) in the fall.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
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