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# UEC GOVERNMENT RELATIONS REPORT

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# GETTING STARTED

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- It's already time to start planning for the 2020 trip!
- Had an excellent SC meeting this week - thank you to all that attended
  - More detailed introduction to the trip (some repeated here; apologies)
  - Introduction to WHIPS and how it works
  - Indico page: <https://indico.fnal.gov/event/22202/>

# LET'S GET INTO DETAILS: OTHER PLAYERS

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- Lewis-Burke Associates: Ben, Leland, and Lindsay
  - Contracted by FRA (Fermi Research Alliance: also manages Fermilab)
  - Work primarily with GovRel chair (and deputy)
  - Advise us on messaging and “the ask”.
  - Throughout the year, they are in contact with Congressional offices reinforcing our message — in February/March they start “socialising” the ask so offices are prepared for us to ask for that number

# LET'S GET INTO DETAILS: OTHER PLAYERS

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- [usparticlephysics.org](https://usparticlephysics.org) content group
  - Community-driven effort to develop materials for outreach/education — these form a large part of the materials for our trip!
  - Content group organised by Mike Cooke from the DOE Office of Science
  - Includes representation from all the community groups: DPF Executive Committee, Fermilab UEC, US LHC Users Association, SLAC Users Organisation
    - Fermilab UEC representatives: UEC Chair, GovRel Chair, GovRel Deputy
    - Also attended by members Fermilab Communications office (Kurt Riesselmann, Reidar Hahn)
    - We represent the UEC at the meetings, but **we need feedback from this whole committee** — we will be circulating materials and asking for comments and appreciate any input!

# TRIP MATERIALS

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- Some specific things we need input on now:
- 1) We are considering adding to the materials (either adding bits to the existing brochures or making a new brochure; not sure yet) about the role of HEP in AI/ML. Looking for specific examples about:
  - Applications of AI/ML that advance the field of particle physics
  - Efforts within the US particle physics community that advance AI/ML
  - The connections between the US particle physics community and AI/ML in industry, including hardware and software/algorithms
  - The impact particle physics has on fostering an AI-ready workforce

# TRIP MATERIALS

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- 2) Based on feedback from the last trip, we are updating the brochure “Particle Physics builds STEM leaders” with at least one person in each category “Sparking interest in STEM”, “Supporting aspiring STEM leaders”, and “Contributing to the innovation economy”
- Looking for people to profile:
  - Who have participated in or hosted students through SULI or REU
  - Who have transitioned to careers outside of particle physics that **are** and **are not** focused on AI/ML
- Of course, not everyone we suggest will feature in the final brochures — aim to collect a good list of people that we can choose from

# WHO GETS TO GO ON THE TRIP?

- In 2019 we had 68 trip attendees — 40 supported by the UEC
- We can only support trip participants thanks to very generous support from the URA (please thank them if you ever see them!)
- We have to be strategic in who we support to have the most effective trip we can:
  - UEC and FSPA officers: represent Fermilab's users community
  - Experienced trip attendees are very valuable and people who have had successful trips in the past will take priority over new people (although new, enthusiastic people are also important!). We have some big-hitters that we invite and support every year
  - Consider what each participant will bring to the trip (connections, communications skills)
  - Ultimately the decision of who the UEC supports lies with the GovRel Chair and Deputy





# TRIP LOGISTICS

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- Between now and mid-November we need to set the dates and budget for the trip
- Very hard deadline: must have hotel block booking before December
- I've started the process — meeting with:
  - Tim and Hema to discuss budget
  - Lewis & Burke to discuss dates
- Reached out to USLUA and SLUO 2019 trip leaders to confirm 2020 leadership (and who we should consult about dates)
- Aim to have meetings next week and agree dates with other organizations in next 2-3 weeks (by 1 week before next UEC meeting!)

# TRIP DATES

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- Ben from L&B: “Congressional leaders have not yet released their 2020 calendars, so picking a specific date with certainty is a bit hard at the moment. However, I can say that we should aim for mid-March since it’s at that point that Congress will really be ramping up their appropriations process and still taking inputs from constituents”
- In the past he has advised us that Tuesday-Thursday is the best schedule for the trip, so we will stick with that.
- Tuesday-Thursday dates in mid-March are:
  - 10th-12th March
  - 17th-19th March
  - 23rd-26th March
- So I need input from you: **are there any of these dates in March that would not work for large portions of the community?**

# TRIP TRAINING

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- Had a great discussion at the SC meeting about training materials, and where we can improve. Some specific ideas:
- Add an FAQ to the wiki page: What should I wear (with photos)? How many meetings should I book? Can I assign myself meetings if I didn't get assigned any? Can I go on the trip if I'm not a US citizen?...
- Add a script to the wiki page for making phone calls/writing emails to schedule meetings
- Video experienced trippers doing their pitch

# TRIP TRAINING

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- There are so many HEP schemes that benefit communities across the country that no-one knows about all of them, and it may not be possible to include them all in the materials. But we can include them in the training!
- Start making a list of these things, based on what people have found useful in their conversations in the past:
  - VetTech
  - QuarkNet (both for teachers and students)
  - Saturday Morning Physics
- More ideas? I definitely don't know them all!

# HELP NEEDED!

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- I need help to do all these things! **Especially looking for volunteers to take lead on training materials and wiki page**
- Some specific questions I need input on:
  - 1) Read the wiki page and write down your feedback! Is it useful? Impossible to find the information you want?
  - 2) Review the materials from last year and send me your feedback!
  - 3) Concrete examples of AI/ML use in HEP for new materials
  - 4) People involved in SULI/REU to possibly profile in materials
  - 5) People who moved from HEP to industry (AI and non-AI) to possibly profile in materials
  - **Any problems with dates in March?**