

Community Conversation: HEP Engagement of the Federal Legislature re: Non-funding Advocacy

22 July 2020

Public Policy and Government Relations Topical Group

Brajesh Choudhary, Rob Fine,
Louise Suter, Breese Quinn

The Plan for Today's Meeting

- I will briefly introduce this topical group recycling slides from the [CEF town hall](#) on 15 July
- I will go into more detail about the topic of today's conversation
- We'll have a vibrant discussion!
- Please try to prioritize discussion of today's topic. But, if you have any thoughts/questions/comments/concerns about the other topics, please communicate those via the Slack channel!

Guidelines for the discussion

[1] Be Seen : Please raise your hand on Zoom if you would like to make a comment or ask a question. Please wait to be called on by the session moderator before speaking.

[2] Be Mindful : Please be mindful of others if you are dominating the discussion. Share the air. We want to hear as many voices as possible.

[3] Be Relevant : Please keep questions and comments relevant to the discussion.

[4] Be Respectful : As always, be respectful of your colleagues. Everyone has a right to be heard, so speak up but give space for others to contribute as well. Let's have a good meeting!

[5] Stay connected...

- Listserv: SNOWMASS-COMM-ENG-FRONTIER-GRP@fnal.gov
- Slack: Go here <https://snowmass2021.slack.com/> → [community_engagement_frontier_topics](#)

Community Engagement Frontier

Improve and sustain **strategic engagements** with our communities in order to **draw support** for and **strengthen** the field of particle physics, while playing key roles in serving those communities. These engagements take well-coordinated efforts in many areas where the communities of experts and non-experts can understand and communicate our field's value, maximize its impact on global socioeconomic development, and open its doors to broader participation. •

Note concerning the nature of the Community Involvement Frontier

- This one is somewhat different. Composed of Topical Groups dealing with different issues of community-wide engagement that cut across all Frontiers, rather than all focusing on specific aspects of one area of our field.
- Each CEF Topical Group will need to work with other Frontiers at least as much as with other CEF Topical Groups.

Community Engagement Topical Groups

- **Applications & Industry**

- Develop and strengthen HEP/Industry relationships in both directions: form more partnerships to draw on industry expertise to further HEP goals, and build on programs to facilitate transfer of HEP technologies/techniques for use in the broader society.

- **Career Pipeline & Development**

- Not simply making young scientists aware of different opportunities, but also changing culture of HEP career paths (e.g. issues with Computational staffing)

- **Diversity & Inclusion**

- Improve diversity, inclusion and equity in our field

- **Physics Education**

- Broader than simply how we teach physics courses. It is about what education and training our field needs to produce the physicists required for the HEP program to be successful (e.g. computational, beams, instrumentation; workshops, univ/lab/collaboration-level courses, etc.)

- **Public Education & Outreach**

- This is where most of Snowmass 2013 CEO Frontier focus lives, and what some think of as the whole of Snowmass 2021 CEF.

- **Public Policy & Government Engagement**

Who are we?



Rob Fine
University of Rochester
finer@pas.rochester.edu



Louise Suter
Fermilab
lsuter@fnal.gov



Brajesh Choudhary
University of Delhi
brajesh@fnal.gov

Topics under discussion:

- How does the HEP community engage with legislators in the US congressional government re: funding? What has worked well and where can we improve? (e.g. annual “DC Trip”)
- Should the scope of our advocacy be expanded to include e.g. State-level government officials?
- Should we expand the subject of our advocacy beyond funding? To advocate e.g. immigration issues impacting HEP?
- How do we increase awareness within our community of these efforts and their importance?
- How do we provide training, tools and a gateway so everyone feels able to engage with these efforts?

How to join the conversation:

- [Subscribe](#) to our email listserv: SNOWMASS-COMMF-06-PPGE
- Join our Slack channel: https://app.slack.com/client/TNNU4A570/C012V6WUNRY/details/top?cdn_fallback=2
- Attend meetings: <https://indico.fnal.gov/category/1156/>
- Contribute an LOI (see Public Policy & Government Engagement for topics we have considered [here](#))

Congressional government engagement on HEP funding

[PP+GE broad topic 1]

Largest part of current ongoing PP+GE is annual DC trip of about 50 people organized by Fermilab, SLAC, and US LHC users groups.

- Goal: meet with staff of all Congressional districts and States to deliver community consensus message and make budgetary request for DOE Office of Science (HEP) and NSF.
- Our community has built up resources over the years: legislation experts, Congressional committee contacts, and HEP ‘friends’ in Congress.
- Advocacy covers: Budget, P5 plan, science highlights, impacts of HEP.

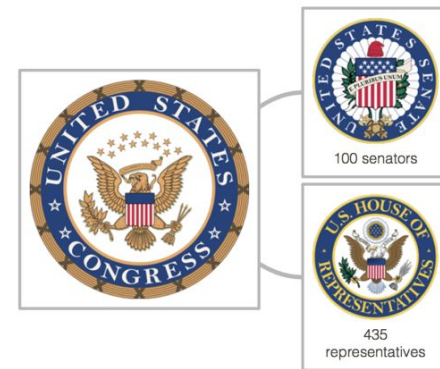
Expand scope around annual DC Trip

- Expand and understand participation (is it representative of the whole community?), resources, improve materials and training.
- Engage in advocacy outside of the annual trip.
 - Build on relations with local Congressional offices
 - Build out tools to allow a wider swath of the community to contribute at lower level (e.g. letter writing and phone campaigns).

Linked Topical Groups/Frontiers: PE&O

LOI document: Planned, looking for additional contributions

Meeting: Planned kick off w/ mini town hall Aug 5th



Current community made materials

<https://www.usparticlephysics.org/resources/>

Possible engagement with new groups or expanded engagement with current groups [PP+GE broad topic 2]

- **New:** State government engagement
 - Would it be impactful to reach out to groups below the federal level? Need to understand impact vs resources it would take, as community resources are limited.
- **New:** International government engagement
 - Should we actively work to enable advocacy for US HEP outside of the US?
- **New:** Engagement with industry and other policy science influencers
- **Extension:** Engagement with federal funding agencies, DOE, NSF
 - Ability to provide community feedback, on things such as grant criteria and comparative reviews.
 - For example does the current breakdown of research/outreach/inreach/community-engagement effort in grants reflect what the community wants?
- **Extension:** Communication with the executive branch (e.g. OMB, OSTP)
 - Currently we do meet with these agencies as part of annual DC trip, but we have limited communication channels

Linked Topical Groups/Frontiers: A&I, D&1

LOI document: Looking for contributions

Meeting: Kick off community discussion 19th Aug

Improvements in advocacy awareness and training

[PP+GE broad topic 3]

- Advocacy ‘outward’ training for HEP community members
 - Current training is focused around DC trip
 - No community-wide training in advocacy
- Advocacy ‘inward’ awareness within HEP community
 - Important to educate the community on the importance of a uniform message and the impact of P5 and HEP advocacy

Linked Topical Groups/Frontiers: PE&O
LOI document: Looking for contributions
Meeting: Kick off community discussion 2nd Sept



52nd Annual Users Meeting
Jun 11, 2019, 8:00 PM → Jun 13, 2019, 6:00 PM US/Central

9:00 AM → 10:15 AM Session V: Science Communication
Convener: David Martinez

9:00 AM How to talk science to everyone
Speaker: Andre Salles (Fermilab Office of Communications)

Alan Alda Center
for Communicating Science®
AT STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

SCIENCE COMMUNICATIONS TRAINING

- Science communications training for all trip participants helps us deliver our message clearly
 - Congressional process, meeting etiquette
 - Communication strategies and best practices
 - Identifying the clear benefits to society of fundamental research
 - Forming and providing a clear and concise message to the public



B. Quinn, G. Davies

- FY 2015 House Energy and Water Development Appropriations Report: – “The Committee notes that the high energy physics research community is currently engaged in developing a ten-year plan for U.S. particle physics, which will include a ten-year report by the Particle Physics Project Prioritization Panel under various budget scenarios. **The Committee applauds the Department for this undertaking . . .**”
- FY 2016 House Energy and Water Development Appropriations Report: – “The Committee **strongly supports** the Department’s efforts to advance the recommendations of the Particle Physics Prioritization Panel and urges the Department to maintain a careful balance among competing priorities and among small, medium, and large scale projects.”

Congressional government engagement on other topics (non HEP funding)

[PP+GE broad topic 4]

- Should the HEP community advocate for non-funding public policy. e.g. legislation re: immigration policies which impact HEP, diversity in STEM, education ?
 - Most people would agree there are many areas that directly impact our field and the lives of those in our field that it would be beneficial to advocate for.
 - We don't currently have the structure in place to do this.
 - Who decides that a legislative issue is important to the HEP community at large? And, important enough that members of the community should be encouraged to contact Congress as a member of the HEP community. DPF have filled this role in the past and are the only group currently able.
 - Need resources to develop tools. No federal resources (i.e. things bought with grant or lab money) can be used for these efforts, which can hamper progress. For example, for HEP advocacy we work closely with gov. rel. experts in HEP funding.
 - For some topics which have clear community support, there may not be community consensus on specific action items. Congressional advocacy is generally aimed at a specific bill.
 - The resources and time available from the members of the community is limited. We would need a system that would effort that it enables broad participation without large overhead

Linked Topical Groups/Frontiers: D&I, PE&O

LOI document: looking for contributions

Meeting: kick off community discussion 22nd July