
Public Affairs Perspective

Congressional Visits Day

Three ESA members participated in the May 2005 Congressional Visits Day (CVD) in Washington, D.C. CVD is a multi-society, multi-discipline, 2-day annual event that brings scientists, engineers, researchers, and educators to Washington to raise visibility and support for science.

David Bowne, Adjunct Professor of Biology at Franklin and Marshall College, Gera Jochum, a graduate student at West Virginia University, and Anika McKessey, a doctoral student at Drexel University, all traveled to the nation's capitol to meet with their congressional delegations and learn more about the legislative process.



Hill Scare



McKessey, Jochum, and Bowne on Capitol Steps

Nadine Lymn, the Society's Public Affairs Director, and Laura Lipps, ESA Policy Analyst, helped manage this year's CVD, which featured briefings from high-ranking administration and congressional staff and more than 200 scientists and educators from across the United States.



Jochum, Lipps, McKessey, and Bowne swap stories

ESA members and staff met with six congressional offices to emphasize the importance of funding research across scientific disciplines. To add to the excitement, McKessey, Bowne, and Jochum experienced more than they bargained for when they were evacuated from Capitol Hill during the security scare caused by a small plane that had crossed into the restricted airspace.

During their meetings with congressional offices, Bowne, McKessey, and Jochum were able to highlight their research and the vital connection between federal support of agencies such as the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy's Savannah River Ecology Laboratory, and the Department of Agriculture's National Research Initiative.