

2017 Congressional Visits Day – Call for Applications

The NAPB invites graduate students to apply for participation in the upcoming Congressional Visits Day sponsored by the Tri-Societies (CSSA, ASA, and SSSA). The event will take place in Washington, D.C. during March 13-14 (arrival prior day). Travel and per diem expenses of the NAPB graduate student representative(s) will be covered by NAPB. NAPB will partner with the Tri-Societies and we seek applications by 6th January. The Tri-Societies Science Policy Office hosts this activity, and previous participants have found it to be a very stimulating and educational experience.

A training session will be followed by visits to congressional legislative offices. You will be accompanied by a senior “guide” and another graduate student. Visits are usually with congressional office staff and occasionally a legislator may participate in the visit, or stop by for a quick hello and possible photo opportunity.

The congressional visits are an important way of extending the message of what we do and why it is important to legislators who control the authorization and appropriations process. Important pieces of legislation such as the Farm Bill provide direction and funding support for agricultural research and the USDA/ARS. You will gain valuable understanding of this process and learn effective ways to communicate with policy-makers.

Interested parties should submit a short CV, a letter of interest (not more than one page single spaced), and a letter of support from their advisor, to Dr. Rich Pratt, Chair of the NAPB Advocacy Committee at ricpratt@nmsu.edu. An additional letter of support may be submitted if desired. We request that only U.S. citizens apply for the simple reason that legislative offices are motivated to interact (especially) with their voting constituents.

International graduate students who find policy and/or advocacy issues of interest are invited to send an e-mail indicating their interest Dr. Pratt.