

Call for Applications

Rita Allen Foundation/Sigma Xi Civic Science Fellow, Science Policy and Engagement

Are you passionate about helping scientists engage in the policy process? Would you like to learn more about science policy while developing a training platform for scientists? Sigma Xi, the world's largest multidisciplinary honor society for scientists and engineers, is looking for someone to lead an initiative that will increase researchers' understanding of science policy and instruct them on how to achieve positive outcomes.

Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Honor Society, in partnership with the Rita Allen Foundation, is seeking a highly motivated, talented individual to work at the science-policy interface. The Sigma Xi Civic Science Fellow will investigate the needs and priorities of scientists and policymakers at the state level and determine the skills and knowledge required by scientists to successfully engage with the public policy process. This fellowship presents a remarkable opportunity to work with leaders across government, industry, and academia, while strengthening the connections between these sectors and the broader policy community. The term for the fellowship is 18 months starting September 1, 2021.

The Fellow will develop practical communication and engagement experience, acquire empirical data, and expand Sigma Xi's network of contacts in science, public policy, and communities. These experiences will enable the fellow to develop a digital platform for fostering effective, sustainable collaborations between scientists and policymakers to address the needs of communities, initially within the state of North Carolina. The project will empower trainees from science backgrounds to take the next step in their career toward civic science engagement. The Fellow will also generate data and a new approach to building meaningful collaborations between scientists and policymakers that would result in a published report for use in other communities.

The Civic Science Fellows program seeks to broaden engagement with science and research to inform policies and solutions for societal challenges. The Sigma Xi Civic Science Fellow will join a national network of Fellows from diverse backgrounds working on a variety of multidisciplinary projects. The Fellows will cultivate a culture of civic science where scientists are engaged with local communities and policymakers. The benefits of being a Civic Science Fellow include professional development in subject matter as well as leadership skills, and mentoring.

Key Responsibilities

The Fellow will work with the Sigma Xi leadership team to develop a platform that provides empirical evidence, guidance, and resources to help scientists gain a better understanding of the policy process and successfully engage in policymaking. To achieve this goal, the Civic Science Fellow will:

- Develop resources and case studies to inform scientists about the policymaking process
- Design and disseminate survey instruments to collect and analyze data on scientists' perspectives on public policy
- Design and implement a pilot program to prepare scientists to engage with policymaking at different levels and in different settings based on their interests and goals
- Develop and implement an evaluation plan to assess outcomes of the pilot program
- Document and publish findings of the pilot program

Qualifications:

- The successful candidate must have earned a master's or higher degree in a STEM or policy field
- Strong and broad analytical and research skills as expected from obtaining an advanced degree, preferably in a STEM field
- Experience or demonstrated interest in science and public policy
- Experience in program or project management
- Comprehensive understanding of the key elements and dynamics of both science and the policymaking process
- Strong oral and written communications and interpersonal skills
- Ability to work independently, demonstrate initiative, and think entrepreneurially
- Strong problem-solving abilities and leadership skills
- Comfortable working with executives, elected officials, senior scientists, and with mid-level staff

Application Materials

- Current CV
- Cover letter
- List of two references, including contact information
- A statement of interest of 500 words or less describing the applicant's interest in science policy and how the fellowship aligns with their career trajectory

Salary

This is an 18-month position. The salary for this fellowship is \$80K - \$90K per year plus benefits. The successful candidate can work remotely.

Application Deadline:

Applications should be submitted via email to executiveoffice@sigmaxi.org no later than July 30, 2021.

Sigma Xi is an equal opportunity employer, and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin, disability status, genetics, protected veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or any other characteristic protected by federal, state, or local laws.