

NAIPI-VSA-Sponsored ‘Take Your IDeA Science to Capitol Hill’

Each year, Congress must decide on the budget for the IDeA program. Bringing new generations of researchers into the science community is a key goal of the IDeA program. Students can be some of the best ambassadors for science research and it's important that Congress has an opportunity to meet, firsthand, the next generation of American's science community. Since many students will be in Washington, DC, attending the NISBRE meeting, NAIPI/ Van Scoyoc Associates (VSA) will provide selected students with a great opportunity – the opportunity to meet with key staffers from their state's congressional offices. These students will be able to directly educate congressional staff about why the IDeA program is so important to themselves, their careers, and their states.

This will be a student training opportunity as VSA will brief the students on such things as how to talk about their research experiences, how to hone their message for maximum impact and how to perfect an “elevator speech,” before they embark on Capitol Hill for meetings with their congressional offices. VSA will prepare them for what to expect in their meetings and why the Members/staff they are meeting with are important to the IDeA program. Through this experience, students will get a glimpse into the budget and appropriations process that determines funding for the IDeA program each year.

Finally, VSA will host a reception later in the day so students can come together and talk about their meeting experiences. From start to finish, students will be offered the same experience that literally hundreds of other groups participate in each year. Let's help these brilliant young people make their voices heard on Capitol Hill!

Award details and eligibility:

To best represent all of us, two students will be selected from each IDeA Region, for a total of eight students. Each student will be awarded up to \$2,000 to travel to the NISBRE Meeting and to participate in the NAIPI-VSA on Capitol Hill event on Wednesday, June 29th. States have been prioritized, because they have members on key Senate and House committees, as those most able to benefit the Program by getting information about IDeA Science and training. One student from each of the key states will be selected with coordination from the INBRE-PI (by a method at their discretion) in each state:

- Northeastern Region:
 - New Hampshire
 - Maine
- Central Region
 - Oklahoma
 - Kansas
- Southeastern Region
 - Mississippi
 - West Virginia
- Western Region
 - Idaho
 - Montana

Opportunity developed by the NAIPI Executive Committee: Carolyn H. Bohach, Jim Kenyon, Larry Cornett, Lucia Pirisi-Creek, and Doug Wright and by VSA: Mike Adcock, and Jessica Malow-Molesworth