Education of Congressional Staffers

Non-Technical Background 83%

Technical Background 17%

1. Physics 3%
2. Chemistry 2%
3. Math 3%
4. Engineering 3%
5. Other Technical 6%

Data gathered from www.legistorm.com
Physics Student → Hill Staffer

• Physics undergraduates can excel in congressional offices

• Invest in policy internships for undergraduates

• Benefits for the field of physics
## Portrait of a Physics Student

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skill</th>
<th>Percent Regularly Using Knowledge or Skill</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Solve Technical Problems</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work on a Team</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Perform Quality Control</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Technical Writing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use Specialized Equip.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manage Projects</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge of Phys. or Ast.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design &amp; Development</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programming</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Work with Customers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Math</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simulation or Modeling</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manage People</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manage Budgets</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

www.aip.org/statistics
Working for the Senate

- Compiled data
- Spreadsheets
- Researched/assessed sources
- Wrote technical documents
- Communicated technical details
Investing in Interns

• Policy option unknown (students, professors)
• Not a common path
• Lots of internships
• Most are unpaid
• It starts as an intern

Eddie Bernice Johnson via Facebook
Physicists in all Positions

• Time is the key to promotion
• Policy advisors, staff assistants, staff directors, etc.
• Ph.D. not necessary
How Physics will Benefit

- Staff have power (statements, questions, policy)
- Physics trained staff will help raise awareness of the field
- Members of Congress interact with staff

Deep Underground Neutrino Experiment

http://www.dunescience.org
A Call to Action

- AIP Mather Internship success
- Congress needs more scientifically trained staffers
- Physics students can fill the role
- Paid internships can lead to this
- Benefits for the field of physics

Dr. Mather with myself and Eleanor Hook
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Questions

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