REALIZING THAT TEACHERS HAVE A VOICE

AMBER SAMMONS
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WHAT IS THE MASTER TEACHER POLICY FELLOWSHIP?
GOALS OF THE MTPF

- Bring together teachers passionate about improving the education system
- Teach educators ways to effect policy at the federal level and the state/local level
- Empower teacher-driven efforts to improve education policy
VISITS AND SPEAKERS

- U.S. Department of Education
- National Academies, Board on Science Education
- Education Commission of the States
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, Land Grant Extensions Systems and 4H
- American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
- National Science Foundation
Need More Women & Diversity in STEM & Tech Jobs

What’s the PROBLEM?: Even though enrollment in H.S. physics courses is nearly 50% women, and unlike other sciences, post-secondary participation in physics falls dramatically after high school.

Why is it IMPORTANT?: If more female and underrepresented students are encouraged to take college physics, then they will be more likely to major and complete an engineering/STEM degree.

Why we need WOMEN in STEM Jobs?
- 40% more tech patents filed by mixed-sex teams compared to all-male teams.
- Need more women’s input in tech companies’ products (e.g. seat belts, blind spots, smartphones, apps, etc.)
- Purchasing Power: 99% of computers are purchased by women
- STEM jobs have 33% higher salaries

What can we DO?:
- Support bipartisan bills like H.R. 2128, 1666, S737
- Continue to fund NSF programs like the $3 million grant pilot program
- STEP UP Program with APS
- Help spread awareness of this issue to local agencies and companies
- Provide guidance at the state/local level

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CAPITOL HILL

- 25 Senate and House Office Visits
- 6 One-on-One Meetings with Congress Members
- 1 Co-sponsoring of a Bill
  - HR 3108 “Teachers Are Leaders Act”
TAKEAWAYS

- Education policy is mostly controlled at the state/local level.
- Experts have a voice.
- Teachers aren’t limited to the classroom.
I NEED TO THANK...

- MY MENTORS, ROBERT HILBORN + MARK HANNUM
- AAPT + AIP
- HENRY FUNG AND THE POLICY FELLOWS
- BRAD CONRAD, KAYLA STEPHENS, AND ALL OF THOSE AT SPS
- MY FELLOW INTERNS!!!