



Overall Goals for Congressional Visits

- Dispel myths and showcase the progress and innovation you are enabling in your communities
- Highlight federal partnership essential to support for engineering
- Keep momentum going on growth to federal investments in research and education
- Seek champions for bolstering engineering priorities
- Keep positive message on engineering research and education while protecting against threats



ASEE/EDC Congressional Priorities

- Advocate for Funding at Critical Agencies
 - National Science Foundation research and education funding
 - Department of Defense basic and applied research
 - Specific research accounts for other mission agencies (e.g. DOE, NASA, NIH)
 - Pell and other student aid
- Protect Against Threats to Engineering Schools and Colleges
 - Science and Security
 - Immigration – high-skilled immigration and student talent pipeline (e.g. H1B visas, OPT, DACA)
- Inform Education, Research, and STEM Policy
 - Research agency reauthorizations (e.g. NSF, Defense, NASA, Applied Energy)
 - National Defense Education Act reauthorization
 - Higher Education Act reauthorization – student impacts, teacher training

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 **ASEE**
AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR
ENGINEERING EDUCATION

Talking Points



EDC Public Policy Colloquium 2020 Talking Points for Meetings with Congressional Office Staff

General Talking Points

- Thank them for taking the time to meet with you and for their past support, if relevant.
- Introduce all members of your group – note connections to the district or staffer.
- **Tell them about exciting research or student stories from your schools and states. Note the critical federal support** that has enabled these developments and **discuss impacts** on national security, health, environmental resilience, or other **societal challenges**. Highlight the role of universities in creating the **STEM educated workforce** to ensure continued U.S. innovation leadership.
- **Tell them about ASEE** and the Engineering Deans Council: “For over 125 years, the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) has been dedicated to advancing engineering education and research. The ASEE Engineering Deans Council (EDC) is comprised of leaders of more than 400 public and private engineering colleges across the United States. We are responsible for training the next generation of engineers and computer scientists and running the research facilities where scientific discoveries become the building blocks of innovative new products, industrial processes, and services.”
- **Discuss fiscal year (FY) 2021 Appropriations:** Thank them for increases to research and education funding, including to NSF and defense basic research in FY 2020. While we are grateful for any increase, investments in critical technology areas are not keeping pace with growing needs. We risk losing our science and technology leadership if we do not adequately invest in groundbreaking technologies and the future STEM workforce.
- **Talk about the importance of the federal partnership** with universities: “The federal government partnership with universities has played an essential role in creating the modern world, undergirding our health and national security, and developing technologies we all depend on through support for research advances and training the next generation of engineers. We see many exciting opportunities on the horizon for research and lots of excitement from students, and want to make sure that this partnership continues and is strengthened to address the enormous challenges ahead for our country and world.”
 - Opportunities/Challenges you can mention (choose depending on meeting focus):
 - Strengthening the domestic engineering research and education ecosystem to address growing competition with China and other countries;
 - Increasing partnerships between engineering and medicine to enable transformative technologies for health;
 - Addressing an immigration climate that deters many of the best international students from applying while other countries are seeing dramatic growth in this source of long-term innovation talent;
- Be sure to **thank the staff** again when you leave and follow-up with an email thank you.

Handout



INSPIRING INNOVATION. ADVANCING RESEARCH. ENHANCING EDUCATION.

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR ENGINEERING EDUCATION (ASEE) IS DEDICATED TO ADVANCING ENGINEERING EDUCATION AND RESEARCH.

WHO WE ARE—

ASEE represents the country's schools and colleges of engineering.

Over 12,000 individual members hail from all disciplines of engineering and engineering technology.

Members include engineering educators, researchers, and students as well as industry and government representatives.



The ASEE Engineering Deans Council (EDC) is comprised of leaders of more than 400 public and private engineering colleges across the U.S. We train the next generation of engineers and run the research facilities where scientific discoveries become the building blocks of innovative new products, industrial processes, and services.

ENGINEERING IS EVERYWHERE —

ENGINEERING IS KEY TO OUR EVERYDAY LIVES, AS WE RELY ON SMART PHONES, VEHICLES, ELECTRONICS, MEDICAL DEVICES, AND MANY OTHER TECHNOLOGIES DESIGNED BY ENGINEERS.



Engineering shapes our world and powers our innovation ecosystem. Basic research conducted in engineering schools and colleges around the country catalyzes new industries and revolutionary advances.

A workforce of well-trained engineers in industry and government takes those discoveries and develops transformative new technologies to improve our future. This system is essential to growth and innovation across our economy, and is helping to solve challenges in health, energy, and national security.

The federal government is an essential partner, funding university research and supporting students to enable access to engineering education.

As the pre-eminent authority on the education of engineering professionals, ASEE works to develop the future engineering workforce, expand technology literacy, and convene academic and corporate stakeholders to advance innovation and sound policy.

 Find us on Twitter at @ASEE_DC

More information about ASEE is available at www.ASEE.org.

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Considerations for Visit Preparations

- Make a plan for each meeting
 - Who will lead off discussion
 - Key topics to address
 - Any pitfalls to avoid
- Consider Member priorities and connected examples of research and student successes
 - Connect to committee assignments or leadership positions, district assets, etc.
- If meeting with staff note their background and issue coverage