

To: Leslie Aiello, President, AAPA

From: Karen Strier, AAPA Affiliate to AAAS and AAAS Section H Secretary

Date: 17 February 2019

Re: AAAS Meeting of Affiliates and Section H, Anthropology updates

Affiliates Report

- 1) The AAAS Meeting of Affiliates was held on Friday, February 15, 2019 from 10:00-11:30 a.m. during the 2019 annual AAAS meeting in Washington DC.
- 2) Rush Holt, CEO (outgoing) gave opening remarks.
- 3) Dan Barry, Director of Local and State Advocacy, AAAS spoke about a new outreach program to help promote scientific advocacy by providing scientists with help (training) in how to inform local and state policy makers about issues such as climate change, water safety, energy, etc. Goal is to help establish scientists as local community leaders on policy. Pilot program is being launched in a select set of states, with the goal of network building. Which states can be found at AAAS website.
- 4) Update on Federal R&D Budget, from Joanne Carney, Director, Government Relations, AAAS: Big change in US Congress; >100 new members, about 10% of freshman class have STEM background (vs ~5% of congress); democrats chair science-related committees including New Climate Crisis committee. Main science policy issues of new Congress: climate change, voting technology, artificial intelligence (AI) and scientific advice. (White house issues include latter two plus export controls and immigration/visa issues). Can expect changes in student visa issues coming forward. Shut down affected government budget but as of this date, Congress had recommended an increase in science funding in 2019 and 2020 but always a moving target. Details available at website.
- 5) Campaign for Science (Ken Koizumi, Senior Advisor, AAAS) is an outreach and advocacy program aimed bringing science into public discussions but without explicit program announcement. Private funds have been committed to have similar science-related messaging coming out in various venues.
- 6) Societies Consortium on Sexual Harassment in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine (Andrew Black, Chief of Staff, Chief External Affairs Officer, AAAS). This is a big new program that is newly launched; AAPA is an inaugural member. The Consortium will be producing materials to help eliminate sexual harassment from STEMM; it was stimulated by NAS report. Learn more at the website.
- 7) Meeting ended at 11:30am to permit Affiliates to attend noon session on the Consortium.

Section H Secretary Report

- 1) The second Robert W. Sussman Award for Scientific Contributions to Anthropology, 2018 was awarded to Dr. Erin Vogel, Professor of Anthropology at Rutgers University
- 2) PLEASE consider nominating top people for the 2020 Sussman Award, DEADLINE APRIL 30th; posted at the Section H facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Section-H-AAAS-Anthropology-644296642377229/> and at the AAPA website (attached here, too).
- 3) The next AAAS meeting will be held in Seattle, on April 13-16, 2020 with the theme: **Envisioning Tomorrow's Earth**. Deadline for symposia submissions is April 18th; see the AAAS website for information.
- 4) Student memberships in AAAS are **only \$25**.