



VIRGINIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE, ENGINEERING AND MEDICINE

New fellowship connects scientists to policy decisions in Virginia

VASEM leads coalition of Virginia universities to place science fellows in state government.

Richmond, VA - January 31, 2020 - [The Virginia Academy of Science, Engineering and Medicine](#) (VASEM) is pleased to announce the launch of the Commonwealth of Virginia Engineering and Science (COVES) Policy Fellowship. In Summer 2020, six early career scientists and engineers from across the Commonwealth will serve as science and technology policy advisors in Richmond as the inaugural cohort of COVES Fellows.

The COVES Fellowship is a nonpartisan professional development program for graduate and postdoctoral researchers in the state of Virginia, led by VASEM. The COVES Fellowship aims to strengthen ties between scientific and technical communities and the state government in the Commonwealth of Virginia while encouraging and equipping more technical experts to be effective advisors for public policy. Five fellows will be selected from graduate and postdoctoral programs at sponsoring universities: George Mason, the University of Virginia, Virginia Commonwealth University, Virginia Tech, and William & Mary.

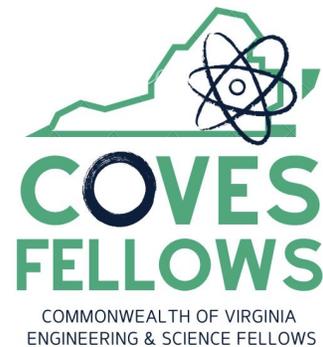
With support from the [Chan Zuckerberg Initiative](#), one fellow will be chosen from amongst historically black colleges and universities in Virginia: Hampton University, Norfolk State University, and Virginia State University.

Applications are now open for COVES graduate student and postdoctoral fellows who will serve as science and technology advisors in legislative offices, executive agencies, or policy offices of prominent companies and nonprofits in the state of Virginia. For 12 weeks, the fellows will contribute to modern science policy challenges facing the state, such as coastal resilience, energy demand and supply, public health, and economic development.

“The Virginia Academy is excited to lead this new program. It is an obvious expansion of our opportunities to provide technical resources available in the Commonwealth to the policy-making process,” said James Aylor, president of the VASEM.

The COVES Fellowship is modeled on successful fellowship programs at the federal level, including the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)’s [Science and Technology Policy Fellowship](#) and the National Academy of Science, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM)’s [Mirzayan Fellowship](#).

“Since 1973, AAAS and NASEM Fellows have provided fresh expertise to the national science and technology policy process. Many alumni have pursued careers in public service, making



legacy contributions to U.S. research and development programs and national security,” said Andrew Reynolds, COVES Advisory Board Member and former Deputy Science & Technology Adviser to the U.S. Secretary of State.

“COVES Fellows will provide similar benefits to our government leadership in Richmond and strengthen ties to the important Universities in the Commonwealth,” said Reynolds.

Learn more and apply at www.vasem.org/covesfellowship.

About VASEM - The Virginia Academy of Science, Engineering and Medicine is a resource for independent expertise on science and technology policy matters facing Virginia. VASEM is comprised of elected members of the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine, as well as other key individuals that work throughout Virginia. Its nonpartisan network of experts provides rigorous analytical, technical, and scientific support to inform policy decisions that are critical to the future of the Commonwealth.

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