



2013 Science-Engineering-Technology Congressional Visits Day

On March 12 and 13, Matt Morris, AEG president, and Paul Weaver, Carolinas Section chair, participated in the 2013 Science-Engineering-Technology Congressional Visits Day (S.E.T. CVD) in Washington, D.C. The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) was the main sponsor of the S.E.T. CVD, with the geosciences represented and organized by the American Geosciences Institute (AGI), a geosciences umbrella organization of which AEG is a member.

Eight geosciences professionals participated in the AGI portion of the CVD while several hundred were on Capitol Hill under the auspices of AAAS. The purpose of the CVD is to allow science, technology, and engineering professionals to meet with legislators and stress the importance of federal funding for S.E.T. research and education. We specifically discussed how funding is critical in solving our nation's biggest challenges, is essential to our economy and competitiveness, and is necessary for the education of future professionals.



Our first event of the day was "Carolina Coffee with Kay" which is a once-a-week event with Senator Kay Hagan of North Carolina at which you get to drink coffee, eat Krispy Kreme doughnuts, and have your picture taken while introducing yourself to Senator Hagan. We then got to meet with Senator Hagan's Legislative Correspondent for Science and Technology, Shaniqua McClendon. Shaniqua was very receptive to our message and provided us with good information in regards to senate bills that were of concern to us.

Our final meeting of the day was with Mr. Kirk Bell, Senior Legislative Assistant for Howard Coble, Representative for North Carolina. Mr. Bell was very receptive to our message and provided a good discussion on transportation funding. While meeting with Mr. Bell, Representative Coble stopped by and said "Hello" to the group.

Participating in the S.E.T. CVD provided great insight to the legislative process and working on Capitol Hill. We believe that our meetings with various legislative staff demonstrated our desire to see science, engineering, and technology funding supported by congress in the future. The meetings also allowed us to become recognized resources to the legislators and their staff when considering how their decisions impact our profession.

The Advocacy Committee is the force behind AEG's participation in Congressional Visit Days. There are two CVD's each year, S.E.T. in March and GeoSciences in September (this year on September 17 and 18). If you would like to participate in a CVD, please contact Rick Kolb or Dan Vellone, Advocacy Committee Co-chairs, at rick.kolb1@gmail.com and Daniel.vellone@ma.usda.gov. The Advocacy Committee can provide funding for the expenses to attend the CVDs. It is a great opportunity and rewarding experience.

To read the full version of this article by Matt Morris, AEG President, and Paul Weaver, Carolinas Section Chair, please see the June AEG *NEWS* [here](#).