



# The Annual HEP Congressional Visit to Washington, D.C.

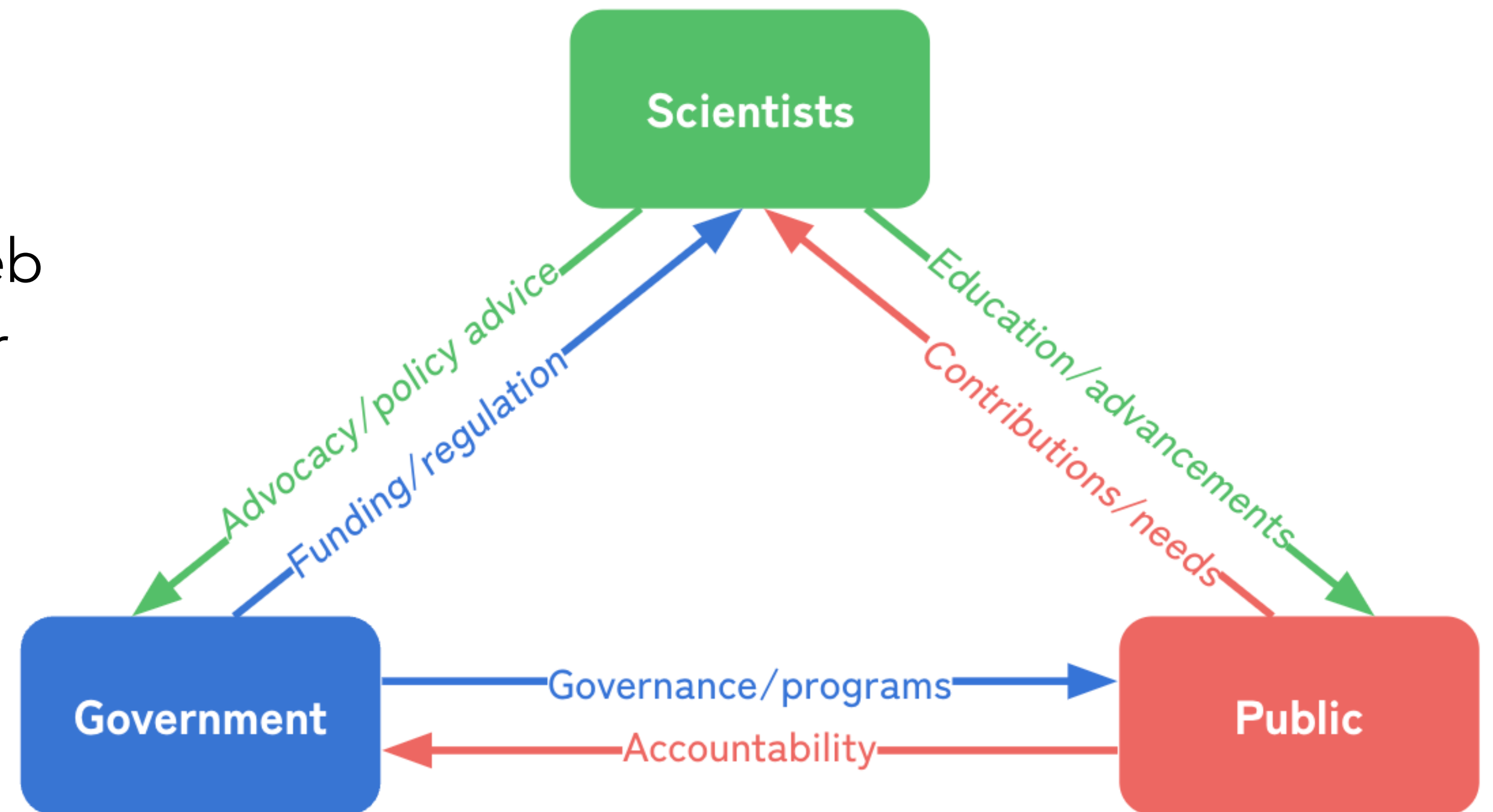
Kiley Kennedy  
Princeton University

APS DPF Community Meeting  
May 21, 2026

# Is High Energy Physics “Political”?

*Not really, but...*

- We (scientists) are embedded in a complex web of varying interests, understanding, and power
- Funding levels can depend on the interplay between a variety of evolving factors

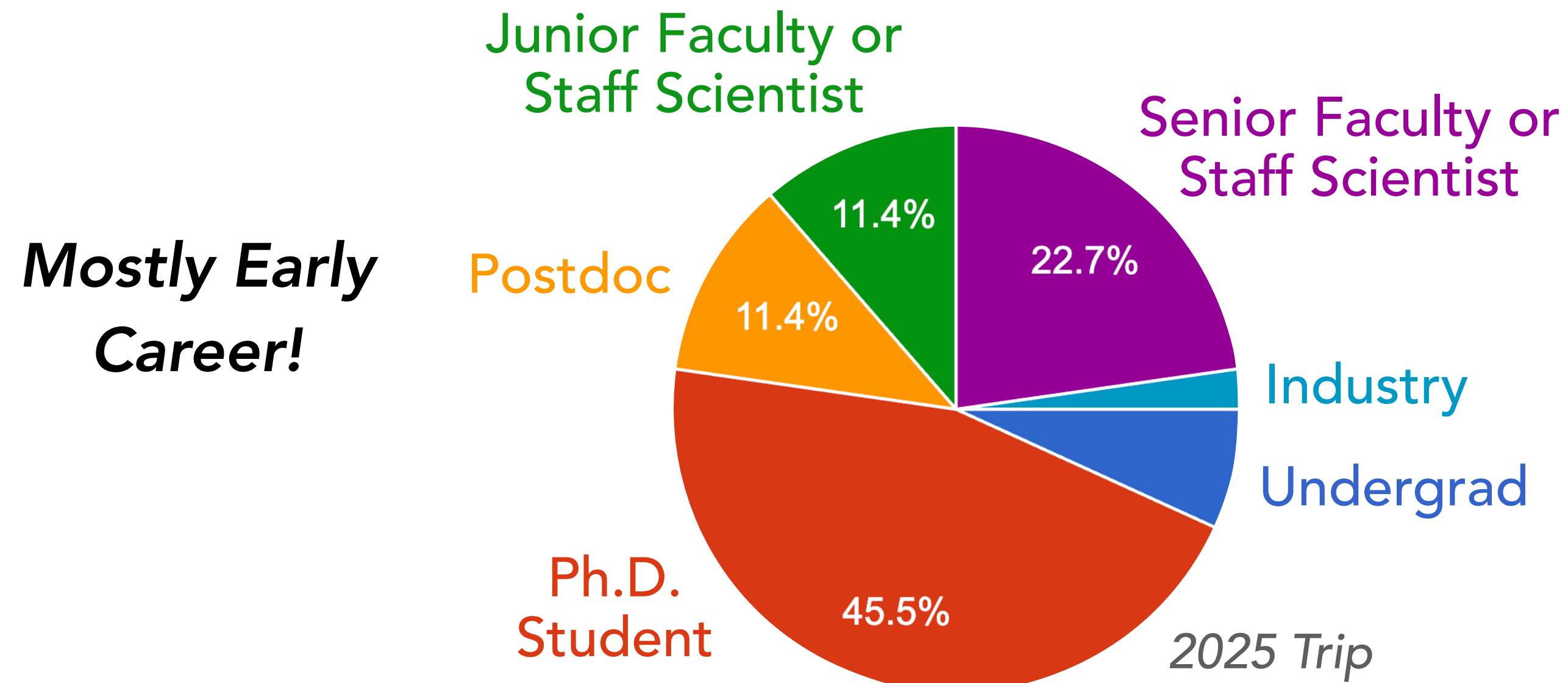


***Understanding and engaging with the various stakeholders of research is a critical component of the scientific enterprise***



# HEP Annual Advocacy Trip to D.C.

~40-80 volunteers meet with legislative and executive offices over 3-5 days in March



Jointly organized by several community organizations:



# Advocacy Goals: “The Ask””

## Priorities + Funding: Set by P5 Report

The U.S. particle physics community asks for your support of the **P5 Report’s** strategic plan by providing FY2026 appropriations that include:

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**\$1.385B for High Energy Physics including at least \$360M (26%) for core research, within a budget of \$9.5B for the Department of Energy’s Office of Science, and \$9.9B for the National Science Foundation, consistent with Congressional authorizations.**

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Previous Years: specifically referenced CHIPS + Science

Department of Energy Office of High Energy Physics:

85% of US HEP Funding

Core research: funding that goes to the *researchers* (vs. projects)

National Science Foundation

15% of US HEP Funding

# Advocacy Goals: “The Ask””

Priorities + Funding: Set by P5 Report

Department of Energy Office

**Convey the excitement and importance of physics and HEP research**

**Demonstrate that we are reliable stewards of taxpayer funds**

**Establish and build relationships with legislative and executive offices**

The U.S.  
Report

\$1.385

at least

\$9.5B

\$9.9B

consistent with Congressional authorizations.

National Science Foundation

15% of US HEP Funding

Previous Years: specifically referenced CHIPS + Science

# Organization with “WHIPS” (since 2018)

## Washington HEP Integrated Planning System

*A centralized platform for planning,  
executing, and documenting HEP  
advocacy efforts*

*Developers:*

*Fernanda Psihas & Justin Vaisel*

## Track advocates (300+) & district connections (4500+)

WASHINGTON-HEP INTEGRATED PLANNING SYSTEM (WHIPS) v6.15.1 LOGGED IN as Kiley Kennedy Home Wiki Congress Meetings

2025-april 17 2024-march 20 2023-march 21 2021-march 6

**Notice:** These schedules and meeting assignments are for a previous trip (2025-april)

**Your Full Schedule** Copy calendar link

**i** Yellow = you are the primary.

Search:

TYPE	MEETING	TIME	LOCATION	PRIMARY	SECONDARY
Legislator	Murphy, Christopher D-CT	2025-04-22 10:30 ET	HSOB 136	Kiley Kennedy	
Legislator	Booker, Cory D-NJ	2025-04-22 11:30 ET	HSOB 306	Kiley Kennedy	
Legislator	Watson Coleman, Bonnie D-NJ 12	2025-04-22 14:30 ET	CHOB 168	Kiley Kennedy	
Legislator	Goldman, Dan D-NY 10	2025-04-22	CHOB 245	Kiley Kennedy	
Legislator	Hoyer, St				
Legislator	Larson, J				
Legislator	Brown, S				
Legislator	Courtney				
Committee	Senate E				
Committee	Senate E				
Legislator	Welch, P				
Legislator	Hassan, Margaret D-NH	2025-04-24 12:00 ET	HSOB 324	Kiley Kennedy	
Legislator	Balint, Becca D-VT At-Large	2025-04-24 13:00 ET	LHOB 1510	Kiley Kennedy	

**bio**  
Postdoctoral fellow at Princeton University working on the CMS Experiment. Formerly a PhD student on ATLAS at Columbia. Passionate about physics, educational outreach, and science policy.

**contact**  
kileykennedy@gmail.com

**affiliation**  
US LHC Users Association (USLUA)  
High Energy Physics: The CMS Experiment

**Your Connections 19** + Add Connections

TYPES	STATE	CHAMBER	DISTRICT	VISITS
CR	NY	HOUSE	10	1
CW	NJ	SENATE	1	0
CW	NJ	SENATE	2	1
CW	NJ	HOUSE	12	1
EF PC	MD	HOUSE	5	1
FR FW ED	NY	HOUSE	13	0
IF	NY	HOUSE	12	0
IF CR FW ED	NY	SENATE	3	0
IF CR FW ED	NY	SENATE	1	0
IF FR ED	VT	HOUSE	At-Large	1
IF FR ED	VT	SENATE	3	1

# Track legislative & executive meetings (~3000)

# Organization with “WHIPS” (since 2018)

WASHINGTON-HEP INTEGRATED PLANNING SYSTEM (WHIPS) v6.15.1

LOGGED IN as Kiley Kennedy

Home Wiki Congress Meetings

MEETING #3961

2025-APRIL

Sen Cory Booker D-NJ

Congressional Office Meeting - Senate

Before Meeting  
Requested Meeting   
Programmatic Request Submitted

After Meeting  
Packet Delivered   
Thanked & Followed Up

ASSIGNED CONTACT SCHEDULE FILE REPORT

Attendees

Primary  
Kiley Kennedy (USLUA)

Secondary  
(USLUA)

Coordinates

Time  
2025-04-22 11:30 ET

Meeting with

Meeting request letter

State funding & procurements

Summary HEP Grants SC Contracts NSF MPS

HEP Grants Total: \$26,005,895  
SC Contracts Total: \$845,387,103  
NSF MPS Total: \$373,537,123  
SULI CCI Total: 57 students  
FNAL Procurements Total: \$14,185,798

Kiley Kennedy  
U.S. LHC Users Association  
1140 19th Street NW  
Suite 900  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
Phone: +1 203 499 9022  
E-mail: kileykennedy@gmail.com

April 18, 2025

Dear Senator Booker:

The DOE Office of Science and NSF Directorate for Mathematical and Physical Sciences (MPS) directly support scientists, engineers, and students in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico through research grants to academic institutions and contracts to supporting industries. In fiscal year 2024, the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science had a budget of \$1.200 billion for High Energy Physics (HEP), and the National Science Foundation (NSF) had a budget of \$9.060 billion.

New Jersey

- Institute For Advanced Study - Louis Bamberger Mrs Felix Fuld Foundation
- William Paterson University Of New Jersey
- Stockton University
- Rowan University
- St Peter'S University
- Rutgers, The State University
- Montclair State University
- Ramapo College Of New Jersey
- The Trustees Of The Stevens Institute Of Technology
- The Trustees Of Princeton University
- Rutgers The State University
- New Jersey Institute Of Technology
- Rutgers-The State University Of New

SULI/CCI students from institutes in New Jersey are hosted by national labs across the country

Past meetings

## Washington HEP Integrated Planning System

A centralized platform for planning, executing, and documenting HEP advocacy efforts

Developers:

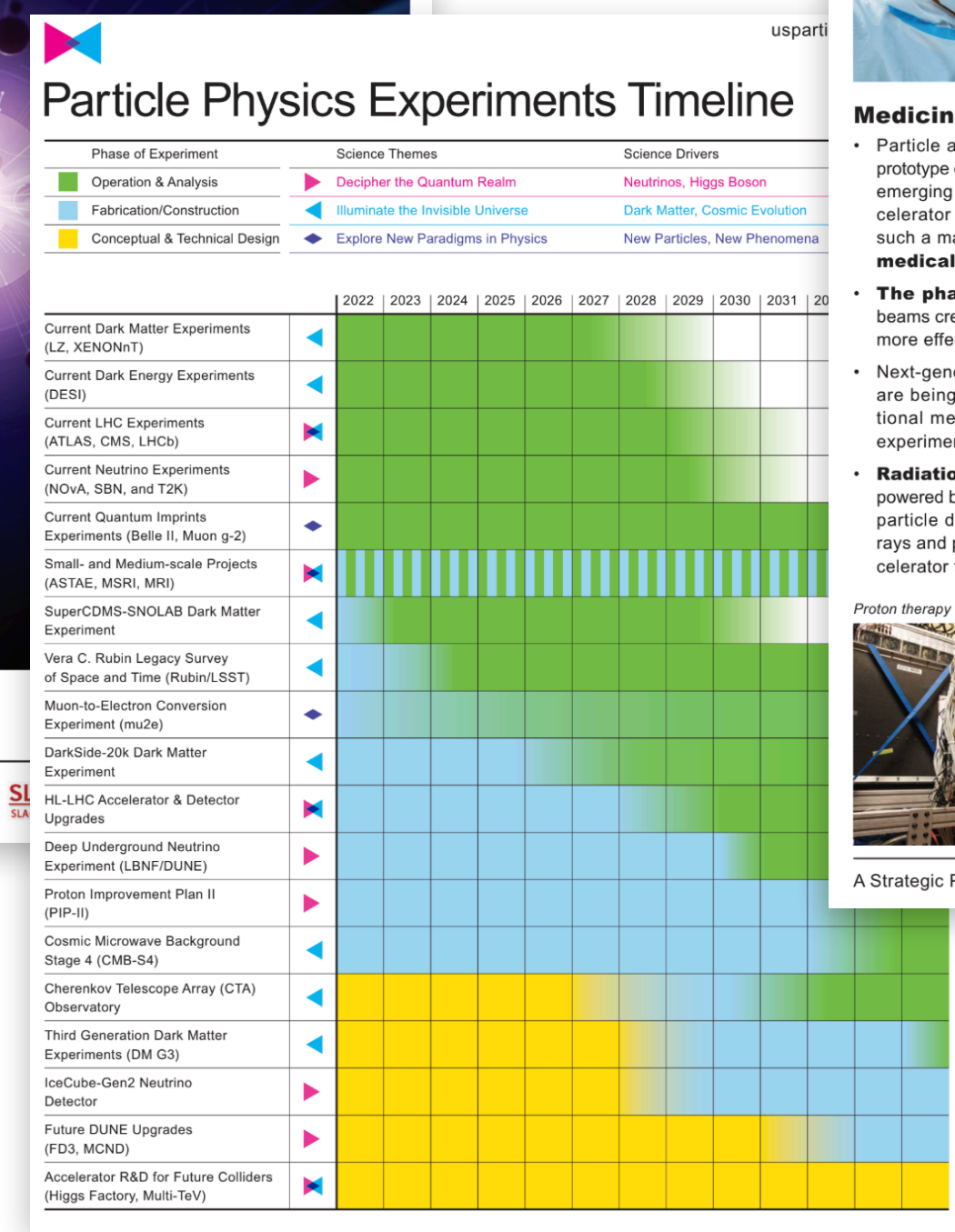
Fernanda Psihas & Justin Vaisel

# Materials: "The Packet"

P5 priorities, physics motivations, experiments, facilities, applications, outreach, & more  
*Tailor materials and messaging for each meeting*

**U.S. Particle Physics**  
Leadership, Innovation, and Discovery

usparticlephysics.org



**How particle physics works for you**

Advanced sensor development

Sterilize medical equipment

**Medicine**

- Particle accelerator researchers are building a prototype electron beam accelerator that integrates emerging technologies into a single, efficient accelerator system. Industrial partners could use such a machine to make X-rays for **sterilizing medical equipment**.
- The **pharmaceutical industry** uses X-ray beams created by particle accelerators to develop more effective drugs to fight disease.
- Next-generation **medical imaging devices** are being powered by detectors and computational methods developed for particle physics experiments.
- Radiation treatment plans for cancer** are powered by software originally developed to model particle detectors, and treatments with gamma rays and protons are delivered using particle accelerator technology.

**Sensors**

- Custom silicon Hadron Collider **applied applications** for imaging, test dosimetry and more.
- Development** opportunities for inaccessible areas.
- Chemistry, science** research from visible areas.

Proton therapy for cancer

**Particle Physicists Advance Artificial Intelligence**

Particle physicists advance artificial intelligence in their quest to explore the frontiers of science. They face unique challenges in operating complex accelerators and detectors and in analyzing massive streams of data. They meet these challenges with innovative techniques that have applications in other areas of science and in industry.

**Particle Physicists Bolster National Security**

Particle Physics plays a crucial role in national security, with physicists collaborating closely with the U.S. government to leverage their expertise and enhance the safety of our nation.

Advanced Cargo Screening

Investigations Inside Nuclear Reactors

Remote Monitoring of Nuclear Reactors

**Particle Physicists Bolster National Security**

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**VetTech and VALOR Program**

Are you a veteran with technical or computer skills? Do you want to pursue a career in science and innovation? 19 veterans joined our team and we hired nine of them for staff positions.

**VetTech Internships**

Every year, Fermilab's VetTech Internship program provides training and career opportunities for military veterans seeking to build or enhance their technical and computing career options. The program places veterans in a wide range of jobs, from mechanical to electrical to computing and software development. The program provides valuable job experience to veterans who plan to pursue a degree in a technical field.

U.S. scientists helped create a particle detector inside the nuclear reactors in Fukushima after the 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan.

The PROSPECT, Chandler, EOS, and MAD new detectors are demonstrating technology for the monitoring and supporting nonproliferation efforts.

**Particle Physics Builds STEM Leaders**

Particle physicists share the excitement of discovery, inspire young minds, and enhance public understanding of science. We partner with educators to prepare students to thrive in our high-tech global economy and develop the next generation of innovators.

**A Strategic Plan for US Particle Physics**

The Veterans provides full-time technical career placement at Fermilab. It offers 10-week paid internships and six-month paid apprenticeships in a broad range of specializations.

**Learn More**

Fermilab is located 40 miles west of Chicago in Batavia, Illinois. Our laboratory is home to particle physics research, a herd of buffalo and 1,100 acres of prairie. To find out more about our VetTech program and to apply, visit [diversity.fnal.gov/VetTech](http://diversity.fnal.gov/VetTech). To browse our current job openings, go to [jobs.fnal.gov](http://jobs.fnal.gov).

# On The Ground in D.C.



344 in  
2026!

## Legislator Meetings

*In pairs, meet with up to 541 legislative offices*

## Committee Meetings

*In small groups, meet with legislative (sub)committees*

## Executive Meetings

*Meet with relevant agencies (e.g., OMB, OSTP, DOE, NSF, State)*

# Takeaways From the D.C. Trip

## **Legislative Offices — widespread enthusiasm across the political spectrum**

- Strong bipartisan backing: democrats and republicans jointly lead support for DOE SC and NSF
- Most effective messaging: workforce development (*core research critical*), global competitiveness, US-based projects, industrial applications, connections to AI/QIS

## **Committee Meetings — get the more “accurate” information from senior staffers (with PhDs)**

- Do not anticipate (or want) further “extreme” cuts, at least on the DOE OS side (expect CRs)
- Expressed concerns about reductions in core research

## **Positive Experiences and Reception**

- 95% of participants polled rate the experience as being positive or highly positive
- We have a reputation as being one of the best-organized scientific disciplines on the hill, largely thanks to the P5 process and community support

# Outlook for FY27

## Baseline: expect CRs (flat budget)

- The PBR is not the budget
- We have already seen congress push back against the PBR in FY26
- We should not expect major cuts (or any increases)

		Agency Funding (\$M)		
		DOE OS	DOE OHEP	NSF
<b>FY25</b>	<b>Enacted</b>	8240	1252	9060
	<b>PBR</b>	7092	1113	3903
<b>FY26</b>	<b>House</b>	8400	1230	7000
	<b>Senate</b>	8250	1253	9000
	<b>Enacted</b>	8400	1235	8750
<b>FY27</b>	<b>PBR</b>	7139	1120	3963

Source: [AIP Budget Tracker](#)

## There is hope

- “We are telling most groups that their programs will be zeroed out. This is highly unlikely for you...this one feels winnable” (quote from appropriations senior staffer)
- Our programs are not cut as much as other programs (comment from OMB rep)

# What Can You Do?

**Number 1:** Keep doing the excellent science that you're doing!

**Advocacy:** Help our community improve the trip:

- Develop materials for the [Full Packet](#) + [Short Packet](#)
- Collect, analyze, and/or organize data/narratives
- Learn more about the trip: [DC Trip Info Session 2025](#)

**Public Outreach:** Broaden community engagement with science

- Representatives are responsible to their constituents. If the general public cares, policymakers will



## **DC Trip Leadership:**

UAEC: Luigi Marchese, David Caratelli

USLUA: Lauren Larson, K.K.

SLUO: Kelly Stifter, Toby Satterthwaite

**Funding Support:** [Donate to USLUA](#), contact UAEC and SLUO on how you can support the trip!

# Thank You!