

DC DAYS 2018

Each year the CFAES Office for Research and Graduate Education and the Grant Development Support Unit (GDSU) invite newer faculty members to travel to Washington, DC, which allows faculty to visit federal agencies and program officers, while providing an opportunity to network and increase collaboration across departments.

The 5th annual DC Days program took place from May 7-9, 2018, allowing 8 faculty members and 3 administrative staff from the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES) to travel to the hill.

This year, CFAES made a joint trip with the College of Education and Human Ecology (EHE), adding 12 EHE faculty and 2 staff members. Program attendees arrived in Washington, DC on May 6th for an all-group dinner to discuss what to expect when visiting a federal agency and how to talk with program officers.

On day one, CFAES attendees hopped on the metro and headed to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to learn about the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). In 2017, the number one federal sponsor awarding CFAES funds was the USDA, providing almost \$9 million in capacity funds and competitive awards. Our state liaison, Ann Lichens-Park, gave an introduction followed by updates from program officers about the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) Programs and the NIFA Center for International Programs. After



From L-R, Back: Rafiq Islam, V.M. (Bala) Balasubramaniam, Eric England, Kerry Ard, Anne Dorrance, Adam Ward, Lori Kaser. **Front:** Melanie Lewis Ivey, Drew Hanks (EHE), Elizabeth Long. **Not pictured:** Pam Schlegel

lunch, CFAES attendees rejoined EHE attendees at the National Science Foundation (NSF).

On day two, all attendees headed to the OSU Office of Government Affairs on Capitol Hill to learn more about how OSU federal liaisons facilitate the development, implementation and advocacy of the University's federal agenda. The afternoon was spent at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), where faculty learned about the grants and peer review process, as well as how to find the right funding opportunities.

The Environmental Protection Agency was the final stop on day three, where program officers discussed the National Center for Environmental Research (NCER) and related funding opportunities in depth.

While in DC, most faculty arranged time to visit individually with program

officers to discuss their research and possible funding opportunities. Faculty organized one-on-one meetings with USDA-NIFA and NSF program officers, in addition to two agencies that were not a part of the itinerary—the Civilian Research and Development Foundation (CRDF) Global and the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR).

“DC Days helped me to understand the different cultures of the agencies and how they handle the grant process.”

**-Dr. Kerry Ard,
Assistant Professor SENR**

If you are interested in joining the next group, check [our website](#) in the fall for the 2019 Request for Applications.

