

## Washington D.C. Trip — Environmental-Themed

16-20, 2024

### At-A-Glance

	Day 1 • Monday, Sep 16 Travel Day, Morgan State University, Group activity	Day 2 • Tuesday, Sep 17 AERC Meeting (Open Science Workshop + Legislative Briefing) + USDA	Day 3 • Wednesday, Sep 18 AERC Meeting (Open Science Workshop + Legislative Briefing) + NSF	Day 4 • Thursday, Sep 19 Small group options	Day 5 • Friday, Sep 20 Individual Mtgs / Travel Day
<b>Morning</b>	Travel Day for some.  Individual or small group meetings that you are responsible for scheduling.  Leave for Morgan State at <b>7:00am</b> via car  <b>9:30–1:00pm</b> Morgan State University, Baltimore, MA  Lunch at Morgan State	Breakfast on your own  Arrive at USDA by 8:30 am  <b>8:45</b> - Tour of USDA  <b>9:00-10am</b> - USDA/NIFA - At USDA  <b>10am-11am</b> USDA/NIFA program officer visit Steven Thomson  <b>11:45am–12:15pm</b> - Lunch on your own  RD team, Wayne meet with UDC for Lunch Noon- 1pm <a href="#">Sfoglina Van Ness</a>	Breakfast on your own  <b>8:30am</b> - Florida International University.  <b>10am</b> - Congressional Briefing on Open Science (open to all/pre-registration required/ <a href="#">link to agenda and topics</a> )  <b>11:15am</b> Leave and travel to NSF (allow 1 hour for travel)  <b>12:15pm</b> - Lunch near NSF on your own (possibly meeting with individual POs)	Breakfast on your own  <b>Capitol Tour</b>  Arrive at Cannon Building by <b>9:40 a.m.</b>  <b>10am</b> - Walking Tour led by Senate Staff	Travel day for some.  Individual/Small group meetings scheduled on your own.  There may be time to visit some of the national galleries or museums.

<b>Afternoon</b>	<b>Noon -</b> Individual/Small group meetings scheduled on your own	<b>12:30pm-5pm</b> Arrive at AERC @ FIU (ESC members only) by <b>12:30 pm</b> <b>1-5pm</b> Open Science Workshop (led in partnership with <a href="#">NEON</a> )	<b>1pm arrive in NSF Lobby for security. Meetings in W2240.</b> <b>1:15pm</b> NSF TIP (45 min) Erik Pierstroff <b>2pm</b> NSF DEB (1 hour) Matthew Kane <b>3pm</b> NSF Office of the Chief, Diversity & Inclusion (1 hour) Chuck Barber <b>4pm</b> NSF NRT NSF NRT Overview. Elizabeth Webber, Ph.D., Program Director Division of Graduate Education Individual meetings scheduled on your own (after group meetings)	Lunch on your own Individual/Small group meetings scheduled on your own. There may be time to visit some of the national galleries or museums.	
<b>Evening</b>	<b>6:00 pm</b> Welcome Gathering sponsored VPR at <a href="#">Paradiso Pizzeria</a> Meet with former/current Michigan People in DC casual	<b>6:30 pm</b> Group dinner sponsored by VPR and ESC (14 people) <a href="https://www.thaichefdmv.com/">https://www.thaichefdmv.com/</a> Thai Chef Street Food, 1712 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington, DC 20009	If desired, dinner on your own or in groups.	Dinner on your own or in groups.	

## Prepare

Please take time to review the agency websites at the end of this document and **think of two questions for each of the group sessions**. Be sure to send 1-page whitepaper & bio-sketch to program officers with whom you have scheduled meetings.

## Attire

Attire for meetings formal business attire (ties, suit jackets, suits, dresses).

## Access

Assume that you will need a government-issued ID to be screened at any government building we enter. We may be asked to screen bags or leave them on a cubby or shelf for the duration of the visit.

The RD office will arrange for NSF badge access for the **group activities** at NSF. This access will be for Wednesday, September 18th for the group activities from 1:00pm-4:00pm. If you are having any individual meetings on that day or any other day you will need to work with your program officer to gain access for the building. You can also arrange to meet with program officers at local coffee shop, cafe, etc. that will not require security access to NSF if you so choose.

## Hotel for Group

Placemakr DuPont Circle

Check-in is at 4pm. They have free luggage storage if you arrive early. There are several nearby restaurants and cafes.

## Transportation

Get your Metro pass when you arrive at the airport. We recommend \$25 for the group metro travel needed for the 4-day trip. If you already have a Metro Card, you can add to it online.

- Metro stop for the **hotel (Placemakr Dupont Circle)** is **Dupont Circle**.
- Metro stop for **NSF** is **Eisenhower Avenue Station**.
- Metro stop for the **University of District Columbia (UDC)** is **Van Ness-UDC Station**.
- Metro stop for **Florida International University** (AERC meeting) is **Washington Union Station**
- Metro stop for **USDA** is **Smithsonian Station**

You are free to use ride-sharing if you prefer.

The Washington DC metro area has a bike-sharing system, [Capital Bikeshare](#). It requires an account with Capital Bikeshare or a Lyft account. There are also Scooter-sharing apps that you might consider downloading if you want to explore parts of the city by electric wheels. Head's up: neither of these programs provide helmets.

## Trip Communication

We will be using the Gmail Chat Spaces function for quick communication during the trip. Download the [Android app](#) or [iOS app](#).

Detailed Agenda		
Time	Topic	Presenter
Day 0 • Sunday, September 15 • Travel Day		

Travel to Washington DC

## Day 1 Monday, September 16 • Morgan State/Individual meetings/Welcome gathering

7:00 a.m.	Meet in <b>Placemakr Dupont Circle</b> lobby if you are going to <b>Morgan State University</b> (15 Dupont Cir NW, Washington, DC 20036)  If you are not going to Morgan State, today is an opportunity to arrange individual and small group meetings • You are responsible for setting up these meetings and arranging security clearance.
7:10 a.m	Depart to <a href="#">Morgan State</a>
	Arrive at <b>Dixon Hall</b> McMechen Building on Cold Spring Lane
9:30 a.m.–11 a.m.	<b>Morgan State Agenda</b> 9:30am-11am -Open Forum with provost, department chairs, deans, and faculty.
11 a.m.	<b>Facility Tour</b>
12 p.m.	Lunch provided by Morgan State
1:15	Meet for rental car back
	The afternoon allows you to meet individually or in small groups with agencies. You are responsible for arranging these meetings.  Free to enjoy the sights and sounds of Downtown Washington. <a href="#">Many museums</a> have free admission and most are open until 5:00 or 5:30 p.m. If you need an additional meal, we encourage you to form groups with colleagues. Feel free to find groups in our Google Spaces. Use the help of your colleagues or a smartphone app (like <a href="#">Google Maps</a> or <a href="#">Rome2Rio</a> ) to use the Metro back to your lodging.
6:00 p.m.	<b>Welcome Gathering</b> We'll meet at <b>Placemaker Dupont Circle</b> hotel lobby then walk over to <b>Pizzeria Paradiso</b> (0.2 mile / 5 minute walk). We'll want to arrive by 6:30 at the latest so we beat their main dinner rush (the restaurant says that's usually 7-ish). VPR will pay for the food bill (don't include Monday dinner on your travel form per diem).

## Day 2 • Tuesday, September 17 • + USDA/AERC Meeting/ UDC

**USDA:** 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington DC 20250

**AERC/FIU:** Florida International University: 601 New Jersey Ave NW suite 103, Washington, DC 20001

**UDC:** 4200 Connecticut Ave. NW Washington, DC 20008

7:45 a.m.	Meet in the <b>Placemakr Dupont Circle</b> hotel lobby (if you are staying there)	
7:50 a.m.	Depart for <b>USDA</b> via metro at <b>Dupont Circle</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Get on a red line train toward Glenmont.</li><li>• <b>Transfer trains at Metro Center</b> to an orange line train (toward New Carrollton) or a blue line train (toward Largo).</li><li>• Get off the train at the Smithsonian stop and exit the station via 12th St SW and &amp; Independence Ave.</li><li>• The closest Metro stop to <b>USDA</b> is <b>Smithsonian Station</b>.</li></ul>	
<b>Arrive at USDA by 8:30 am</b>	<p>Visitors arriving at the Whitten Building must enter through the main doors located from Jefferson Avenue.</p> <p>We will need to go through security clearance and you will need to have a government-issued ID.</p> <p>If driving be sure to leave plenty of time to find parking.</p> <p>If ridesharing (Uber, Lift, etc.) you should be able to be dropped off right at the front entrance.</p>	
8:45am	Tour of USDA	
9:00 a.m.	<p><a href="#">Dr. Josh Stull</a>, Stakeholder Affairs Officer USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture <b><a href="#">National Institute of Food and Agriculture</a> • <a href="#">USDA</a></b></p> <p>Josh Stull brings almost 20 years of federal food and agriculture experience, Josh will be working closely as a liaison with NIFA stakeholders across the nation to ensure a strong connection to agency programs and opportunities.</p> <p>Josh returned to the agency after most recently serving as the Vice President for Policy and Analysis at the Supporters of Agricultural Research (SoAR) Foundation. Prior to his service at SoAR, he was the NIFA Congressional and Stakeholder Affairs Officer and Acting Communications Director. Joining NIFA from USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), Josh served as Acting Director of Congressional and Public Affairs and Team Lead of Congressional and Public Affairs Staff. In both roles, he provided guidance and direction to staff on complex media and Congressional issues related to food safety and the inspection of meat, poultry, processed egg products, and catfish</p>	
10:00 a.m.	<p><a href="#">Steven Thomson</a>, National Program Leader Institute of Food Production and Sustainability Division of Agricultural Systems</p> <p>Dr. Thomson serves as National Program Leader for projects and programs that focus on engineering processes that improve systems relevant to agriculture. He supports research, education, and extension activities in these areas. Dr. Thomson has background in aerial</p>	

	application of crop protection materials, irrigation management, crop modeling, decision support systems, sensor systems and electronics, remote sensing, unmanned aerial systems, and general precision ag. technologies and has worked in research, extension, and instruction as faculty member at Virginia Tech and as Research Lead Scientist with the USDA ARS. He engages Universities, other federal agencies, and industry to provide national leadership in Capacity and Competitive Grant programs.	
12:00 noon	Lunch will be on your own. Try to find something near USDA. Plan to leave for FIU by 12:45 pm	
UDC information to come	For those traveling to UDC we will be meeting with Dr. Dwane Jones	<a href="#">Dwane Jones</a> , Ph.D., ACC, Dean of the College of Agriculture, Urban Sustainability, and Environmental Sciences (CAUSES) and Land-Grant Programs, Associate Professor in Architecture & Urban Sustainability
12:45 p.m.	<p>Travel to <b>Florida International University (FIU)</b> via Metro.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From Smithsonian Metro Station, get on the blue line (toward Franconia-Springfield).</li> <li>• Transfer trains at Metro Center to a red line train (toward Glenmont).</li> <li>• Get off the train at Union Station</li> <li>• The closest Metro stop to <b>FIU</b> is <b>Washington Union Station</b> (red line).</li> </ul> <p>The FIU entrance is on Massachusetts Avenue. <a href="#">Map link.</a></p>	
<b>Arrive at FIU by 12:45 p.m.</b>	<p>For those of you attending the AERC meeting Open Science Workshop</p> <p>If you are driving or ride-sharing, please use this address:          Florida International University          601 New Jersey Ave NW suite 103,          Washington, DC 20001</p>	
1:00 p.m.	<p><b>AERC Open Science Workshop</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1:00 pm Opening Remarks – Dr. Bill McDowell (FIU)</li> <li>• 1:15 pm – Dr. Paula Mabee (NEON): What is Open Science – the Data Provider perspective</li> <li>• 1:30 pm – Dr. Chelle Gentemann (NASA): Open science and Continental Scale Geospatial Data</li> <li>• 1:45 pm – Mr. Miguel Leon (UNH): Innovative approaches to Data Sharing and Interoperability of data sets</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2:00 pm – Dr. Sujay Kaushal (Univ. Maryland): What is Open Science: Characteristics of Successful Open Science Syntheses</li> <li>• 2:15 pm – 2:45 Break</li> <li>• 2:45 pm – Dr. Kimberly Kirkpatrick (Univ. Minnesota): Open Science from the Perspective of the University Research Community</li> <li>• 3:00 – Dr. Brian Pellerin (USGS): Open Science at the regional scale for watershed management</li> <li>• 3:15 – Dr. Matt Kane (NSF DEB Ecosystems) Open Science and funding opportunities– Will the fundamental priorities and approaches of NSF change with the advent of Open Science?</li> <li>• 3:30 pm – Open Panel Discussion – How Do We Enhance the Success of Open Science? What are the take-home lessons that should be included in a Perspectives piece for a peer-reviewed journal?</li> <li>• 3:50 – small working group discussions; 3 groups</li> <li>• 4:30 – small working group reporting out</li> <li>• 5:00 pm – End of Workshop</li> </ul>	
5:00pm	<b>Head back to the hotel</b>	
6:30 pm	<p><b>Group dinner Sponsored by ESC and VPR</b></p> <p>Thai Chef Street Food, 1712 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington, DC 20009  <a href="https://www.thaichefdmv.com/">https://www.thaichefdmv.com/</a></p> <p>Sponsored by VPR and ESC.</p> <p>(don't include Tuesday dinner on your travel form per diem)</p>	

Free to enjoy the sights and sounds of Downtown Washington. [Many museums](#) have free admission and most are open until 5:00 or 5:30 p.m. If you need an additional meal, we encourage you to form groups with colleagues. Feel free to find groups in our Google Spaces. Use the help of your colleagues or a smartphone app (like [Google Maps](#) or [Rome2Rio](#)) to use the Metro back to your lodging.

## Day 3 • Wednesday, September 18 • AERC Legislative Briefing/NSF

**AERC/FIU:** Florida International University 601 New Jersey Ave NW suite 103, Washington, DC 20001

**NSF:** 2415 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22314

7:40 a.m. Meet in the **Placemakr Dupont Circle** hotel lobby (if you are staying there)

7:45 a.m. Depart for **Florida International University** via metro at **DuPont Circle**  
601 New Jersey Ave NW suite 103, Washington, DC 20001

- Get on a red line train toward Glenmont.

<b>Arrive at 8:30 a.m.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Get off the train at Union Station</li> </ul> <p>The entrance to FIU is on Massachusetts Avenue.</p>	
8:15 a.m.	Arrive at Florida International University	
8:30 a.m.	<b>Legislative Briefing starts</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30 am – AERC Board, attendees, and speakers arrive at briefing venue (Florida International University)</li> <li>10:00 -11:00 am – Congressional Briefing, Open Science in Ecosystem Research <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Paula Mabee – Open Science From the Data Provider Perspective</li> <li>Ms. Natalie Ward – Implementation of Open Science Across Federal Agencies</li> <li>Dr. Kimberly Kirkpatrick – Open Science from the Perspective of the University Research Community</li> <li>Dr. Brian Pellerin - Open Science to meet Agency Missions</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
11:15 AM	<b>Travel to NSF via metro</b> 2415 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22314 Google Maps says there are a couple of options that may vary your travel time depending on the time of day and metro use. We recommend using your maps app of choice to make a decision that's right for you. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Get on a yellow line train at Gallery Place (toward Huntington). Be prepared to walk.</li> <li>Get off the train at Eisenhower metro stop.</li> </ul> Eisenhower Station is the closest metro to NSF (yellow line)	
Noon	<b>Lunch on your own near NSF</b>	
1:00 p.m.	<b>Arrive at NSF for security clearance</b>	
1:15 p.m.	<b>Technology, Innovation, and Partnership (TIP)</b>  Global competition in science, engineering and technology is fierce, pushing the United States to accelerate the impact of research. Our ability to lead on the world stage and keep our nation secure is directly tied to our ability to accelerate breakthrough technologies, translate research results to the market and society, and attract and nurture diverse talent into the U.S. science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) workforce, including researchers, practitioners, technicians, entrepreneurs, educators and more. This work is predicated on investments by the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF).	<a href="#">Erik Pierstorff</a> Program Director Directorate for Technology, Innovation and Partnerships (TIP) Division of Translational Impacts (TI) Small Business Section  <a href="#">John-David Swanson</a> Section Head Directorate for Technology, Innovation and Partnerships (TIP) Division of Innovation and Technology Ecosystems (ITE) Innovation Programs Section



2:00 p.m.	<p><b>Division of Environmental Biology (DEB)</b></p> <p>The Division of Environmental Biology (DEB) Core supports research and training on evolutionary and ecological processes acting at the level of populations, species, communities, ecosystems, macrosystems, and biogeographic extents. DEB encourages research that elucidates fundamental principles that identify and explain the unity and diversity of life and its interactions with the environment over space and time. Research may incorporate field, laboratory, or collection-based approaches; observational or manipulative studies; synthesis activities; phylogenetic discovery projects; or theoretical approaches involving analytical, statistical, or computational modeling. Proposals should be submitted to the core clusters (Ecosystem Science, Evolutionary Processes, Population and Community Ecology, and Systematics and Biodiversity Science). DEB also encourages interdisciplinary proposals that cross conceptual boundaries and integrate over levels of biological organization or across multiple spatial and temporal scales. Research addressing ecology and ecosystem science in the marine biome should be directed to the Biological Oceanography Program in the Division of Ocean Sciences; research addressing evolution and systematics in the marine biome should be directed to the Evolutionary Processes or Systematics and Biodiversity Science programs in DEB.</p>	<p><a href="#">Matthew Kane</a>  Program Director  Directorate for Biological Sciences  (BIO) Division of Environmental  Biology (DEB) Ecosystem Science  Cluster</p>
3:00 p.m.	<p><b>NSF Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer</b></p>	<p><a href="#">Chuck Barber</a>  Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer  Office of the Director (OD) Chief  Diversity and Inclusion Officer (CDIO)</p>
4:00 p.m.	<p><b>National Research Traineeships (NRT) Overview.</b></p> <p>The NSF Research Traineeship (NRT) program seeks proposals that explore ways for graduate students in research-based master's and doctoral degree programs to develop the skills, knowledge, and competencies needed to pursue a range of STEM careers. The program is dedicated to effective training of STEM graduate students in high priority interdisciplinary or convergent research areas, through a comprehensive traineeship model that is innovative, evidence-based, and aligned with changing workforce and research needs. Proposals are requested that address any interdisciplinary or convergent research theme of national priority, as described in section II.D below.</p>	<p><a href="#">Elizabeth Webber</a>, Ph.D., Program  Director Division of Graduate  Education</p>
4:30 p.m.	<p><b>Individual meetings</b></p>	

5 p.m. Free to enjoy the sights and sounds of Downtown Washington. [Many museums](#) have free admission and most are open until 5:00 or 5:30 p.m. Dinner is on your own. We encourage you to form groups with colleagues. Feel free to find groups in our Google Spaces. Use the help of your colleagues or a smartphone app (like [Google Maps](#) or [Rome2Rio](#)) to use the Metro back to your lodging.

## Day 4 • Thursday, September 19 • Capitol Tour (limited to pre-registered individuals) / Individual Meetings / Travel Day

**Capital:** Cannon House Office Building, 25 Independence Ave SE, Washington, DC 20003

8:45 a.m. Meet in the **Placemakr Dupont Circle** hotel lobby (if you are staying there)

9:00 a.m. Depart for the **Capital Tour** via metro at Dupont Circle

- Get on a red line train toward Glenmont
- **Transfer trains at Metro Center** to an orange line train (toward New Carrollton) or a blue/silver line train (toward Largo).
- Get off the train at the **Capital South** metro stop and exit the station via 1st St SE.

**Arrive at the Cannon House Office Building by 9:40 a.m.**

The closest Metro stop to **Capital** is **Capital South** (orange, blue and silver lines).

Let's meet at the corner of First Ave. and Independence Ave. as it is the closest to the elevators which take you directly to the 566 Cannon office, where we will meet a staffer for the tour. We will be led by a staffer from Senator Peters' office on a tour of our Nation's capitol.

**Tour begins at 10:00 a.m.**

If you are ride-sharing, please use the following address: Cannon House Office Building, 25 Independence Ave SE, Washington, DC 20003

Opportunity to arrange individual and small group meetings • You are responsible for setting up these meetings and arranging security clearance.

Free to enjoy the sights and sounds of Downtown Washington. We are just a few blocks from the Capital and many museums. [Many museums](#) have free admission and most are open until 5:00 or 5:30 p.m. Dinner is on your own. We encourage you to form groups with colleagues. Feel free to find groups in our Google Spaces. Use the help of your colleagues or a smartphone app (like [Google Maps](#) or [Rome2Rio](#)) to use the Metro back to the hotel.

**If you have unscheduled time before you have to fly, think about this as a “creative” or “synthesis” time.**

- Jot down your ideas based on the conversations you've had and the presentations you've seen.

- Send thank you notes to people you met with.
- Sit down with the MTU colleagues who you have maybe found an idea to work on together.
- Do any of the above at a museum or zoo. Most admissions are free. Check out this paper on Museums as Restorative Environments for mental fatigue. (DOI: 10.1111/j.2151-6952.2010.00044.x).

## Agency Backgrounds

### **National Science Foundation (NSF) - <http://www.nsf.gov/>**

An independent federal agency created by Congress in 1950 "to promote the progress of science; to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare; to secure the national defense..." Consists of Directorates for: 1. Biological Sciences (BIO), 2. Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE), 3. Education and Human Resources (EHR), 4. Engineering (ENG), 5. Geosciences (GEO), 6. Mathematical and Physical Sciences (MPS), 7. Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (SBE).

### **Department of Energy (DOE) - <http://energy.gov/>**

The mission of the Energy Department is to ensure America's security and prosperity by addressing its energy, environmental and nuclear challenges through transformative science and technology solutions. DOE is also over many National Labs, which have a vast array of equipment that can be used FREE if you are not working on proprietary research.

### **American Academy for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) - <https://www.aaas.org/>**

The AAAS seeks to "advance science, engineering, and innovation throughout the world for the benefit of all people." To fulfill this mission, the AAAS Board has set the following broad goals:

- Enhance communication among scientists, engineers, and the public;
- Promote and defend the integrity of science and its use;
- Strengthen support for the science and technology enterprise;
- Provide a voice for science on societal issues;
- Promote the responsible use of science in public policy;
- Strengthen and diversify the science and technology workforce;
- Foster education in science and technology for everyone;
- Increase public engagement with science and technology; and
- Advance international cooperation in science.

The world's largest multidisciplinary scientific society and a leading publisher of cutting-edge research through its Science family of journals, AAAS has individual members in more than 91 countries around the globe. Membership is open to anyone who shares our goals and belief that science, technology, engineering, and mathematics can help solve many of the challenges the world faces today.

**Department of Defense (DoD)** - <https://www.defense.gov/> - <https://www.grants.gov/learn-grants/grant-making-agencies/department-of-defense.html>

The mission of the Department of Defense is to provide the military forces needed to deter war and to protect the security of our country. The department's headquarters is at the Pentagon.

**United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)** - <https://www.usda.gov/>

The USDA has a vision to provide economic opportunity through innovation, helping rural America to thrive; to promote agriculture production that better nourishes Americans while also helping feed others throughout the world; and to preserve our Nation's natural resources through conservation, restored forests, improved watersheds, and healthy private working lands.

USDA's strategic goals serve as a roadmap to the mission and vision.

The (USDA) is made up of 29 agencies and offices with nearly 100,000 employees who serve the American people at more than 4,500 locations across the country and abroad.

- [Agencies](#)
- [Mission Areas](#)
- [Organization Chart](#) (PDF, 66.4 KB)