

## **AAAS FELLOWSHIP – BOREAS**

What motivated you for AAAS and what made you successful?

- For executive branch, need PhD at time of applying
- Under AAAS:
  - Executive fellows: (USDA, DOE, etc.)
    - Directly thru AAAS, must have PhD when you apply (!)
  - Congressional office (working for member or committee):
    - Apply and are awarded through societies (ACS) – lumped in with AAAS fellows for training
    - Can apply through other societies (even if they're peripheral)
- Why apply?
  - Science in academia isn't making you feel happy.
  - Research can be focussed on the past, not about what's happening now.
  - Started to feel like you couldn't make an impact in direct service, see public service as a way to do more good.
  - Academic environment is brutal for PoC and women. And is lonely.
  - Research can be down in the weeds, can feel trivial

## **Advice**

- Fellowships shape how you view the world
  - Getting harder for individuals to make a difference (in the federal realm)
- Fellowships are a big TRANSITION
  - Gained skills and insight, but it's hard
  - Opens new pathways into corporate job
- Not going the academic route → your Ph.D. can be very undervalued (your knowledge isn't necessarily tapped)

## **Skills that help you prepare /process**

- Have to nail your interview
- Have to be broad – not just stuck in lab. Volunteer, assisting in University governance
- Need impressive academic record – can't look like a plan B
- Have to be open to new idea

- Have to be able to describe what you did in < 1 min, in plain language – PRACTICE THIS (for everything)
- Make research policy relevant, intern at state capital