



# News from Washington

April 25, 2019

## Congressional Visits Day 2019



Academic and private sector experts in the fields of optics and photonics traveled from across the U.S. to meet with members and staff for the annual Congressional Visits Day in early April. In meetings with Senators, Representatives and key committee staff, participants discussed the importance of federal research and development funding in optics, photonics and quantum science, broadening the use of optics and photonics in infrastructure management, and how additional research and development resources can help foster a workforce capable of fulfilling the promise of these exciting technologies.

Sharing first-hand experiences with policymakers is an essential part of the effort to increase federal support for optics and photonics research and development. In the meetings, participants highlighted the many potential applications of optics and photonics for policymakers. They also addressed the need to incentivize governments at all levels to use optics and photonics to increase efficiencies and encourage more education and job training in this important and exciting field.

Representatives from Arizona, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Massachusetts,

Maryland, Michigan, North Carolina, New Jersey, New Mexico, Nevada, New York, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Virginia participated in the Visit Day. To view the policy briefs shared with lawmakers, please click [HERE](#). To view photos of participants, please check out our new Instagram - @NatlPhotonics.



## **NQI Stakeholders Urge Funding For NQI Act**

In a letter to key lawmakers on Capitol Hill, National Quantum Initiative (NQI) stakeholders are urging robust funding for the NQI Act, which was approved and signed into law in December 2018. In the letter, sent to the Leadership of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, the stakeholders wrote in part:

“NSF, NIST, and DOE are well positioned to expand their research efforts in QIS. The National Quantum Initiative Centers will conduct basic and applied research in QIS, and with the right support, will be able to accelerate scientific breakthroughs and train the workforce needed to capitalize on these scientific breakthroughs. The significant federal investments will help engineer, industrialize, and automate quantum technology, including quantum computers, communications/networking systems, and sensors. This support will lay the groundwork for the development of conventional technology and intellectual property needed to bring quantum technology to full fruition.”

To view the full House letter, please click [HERE](#).

To view the full Senate letter, please click [HERE](#).



## **Brightest Light Initiative Workshop Held In D.C.**

The Brightest Light Initiative Workshop was held in Washington, D.C. from 27-29 March. The event, facilitated by the NPI, was sponsored by the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy, and the National Nuclear Security Administration. Over 100 participants, including some from overseas, came together to organize the U.S. intense ultrafast laser community around common goals, including: identifying compelling science, fundamental and applied research opportunities; defining new and upgraded facility and laser capabilities; and identifying laser research and development to realize both ultrahigh intensities for basic research and high repetition rates as well as high-average powers needed for applications. The workshop was chaired by Roger Falcone of University of California at Berkeley, who is the 2019 American Physical Society President. The organizing group behind the workshop aims to complete a report on the shared objectives by 1 June 2019. To view photos of the event, please visit our Instagram @NatlPhotonics.

## **NPI Steering Committee Meeting Held At Photonics West**

The NPI Steering Committee held its biannual Steering Committee meeting at Photonics West in early February. At the meeting, participants discussed key policy priorities for the upcoming year and outlined new goals. These include the desire to increase collaboration and coordination among U.S. industry, government, and academia to advance photonics-driven fields and driving U.S. policy and funding in areas of photonics critical to maintaining U.S. competitiveness and national security. The steering committee will meet again later this year.

## **NPI Launches Instagram**

NPI has officially launched an Instagram account! Please give us a follow at @NatlPhotonics and tag us as you participate in NPI-related events.

[Visit our website](#)

Thank you for all you do to advance the study and application of quantum and photonics!

Sincerely,



Ed White, Chair, National Photonics Initiative

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**Contact Us:**

The NPI wants to hear from you! Are you interested in joining our efforts? Do you have questions? Need additional information? Please contact David Lang at [Dlang@osa.org](mailto:Dlang@osa.org) or Krisinda Plenkovich at [KrisindaP@spie.org](mailto:KrisindaP@spie.org).

Please visit the NPI website for more information: [www.lightourfuture.org](http://www.lightourfuture.org).

