



# News from the NPI

March 22, 2023

## 2023 Congressional Visit Day

The NPI hosted its first Congressional Visit Day (CVD) of 2023 in late February. The return to an “in-person” format had more than 30 NPI advocates from 10 states meeting with members of Congress and staff to discuss the importance of investments in optics and photonics research, the need for a stable and sustainable science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) workforce, and the bipartisan, bicameral Congressional Optics and Photonics Caucus. Additionally, participants urged members and staff to join the Congressional Optics and Photonics Caucus. For many of the CVD participants, this was their first opportunity to visit Capitol Hill and engage in the advocacy process. CVD participants provided background on the work the NPI has done over the past [decade](#) and explained its priorities for the coming year. To view a gallery of CVD participants, please visit [HERE](#).



## President's Budget Unveiled

President Biden has unveiled his proposed budget plan for Fiscal Year 2024. The President's budget marks the beginning of the federal budget process. The next step will be for Congress to adopt a budget resolution and then appropriations bills. In the budget proposal, the Biden administration proposed increased funding levels for key scientific agencies including the National Science Foundation (NSF) (\$11.3 billion, an 18.6 percent increase over FY'23), the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) (\$1.632 billion, a \$5 million increase over FY'23), and the Department of Energy Office of Science (\$8.8 billion, a 9 percent increase over FY'23). During the Congressional Visit Day, NPI advocates urged members of Congress to support additional funding for these key agencies. Learn more about the budget recommendations made during NPI's Congressional Visit Day [HERE](#).

---

## Workforce Development Efforts Highlighted

---

U.S. Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo is raising awareness about the need for a robust and sustainable science and technology workforce. Secretary Raimondo recently traveled to Austin, Texas, where she toured Austin Community College (ACC) to see firsthand how students are being equipped with the knowledge and skills for the manufacturing jobs of the future. Secretary Raimondo also [spoke to](#) Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service where she stressed the need for a trained workforce and the need for chip manufacturers, construction companies, and unions to work toward the national goal of hiring and training more workers in this critical industry. "To revitalize our technology and manufacturing sectors, we need to start with training and inspiring the next generation of engineers and scientists," said Secretary Raimondo. "We're calling on colleges and universities to triple the number of graduates in semiconductor-related fields, including engineering, over the next decade." The NPI is also advocating for policies that will enhance STEM education in order to establish a more stable and sustainable workforce. Learn more about NPI's workforce development recommendations [HERE](#).

---

## CHIPS for America Funding Opportunity Now Open

---

According to the Department of Commerce, the Biden-Harris administration through the National Institute of Standards and Technology has officially launched the first CHIPS for America funding opportunity following passage of the CHIPS and Science Act last year. The program is designed to provide manufacturing incentives to restore U.S. leadership in semiconductor manufacturing, support good-paying jobs across the semiconductor supply chain, and advance U.S. economic and national security.

As part of the bipartisan CHIPS and Science Act, the Department of Commerce is overseeing \$50 billion to revitalize the U.S. semiconductor industry, including \$39 billion in semiconductor incentives. The first funding opportunity seeks applications for projects to construct, expand or modernize commercial facilities

for the production of leading-edge, current-generation and mature-node semiconductors. This includes both front-end wafer fabrication and back-end packaging. The department will also be releasing a funding opportunity for semiconductor materials and equipment facilities in the late spring, and one for research and development facilities in the fall. Learn more [HERE](#).



## WELCOME REP. TENNEY AND SEN. KELLY

Congresswoman Claudia Tenney (R-NY) and Senator Mark Kelly (D-AZ) are the newest members of the Congressional Optics and Photonics Caucus! If you or your institution would like assistance in hosting your member of Congress or their staff to discuss joining the Caucus, please contact [Jennifero@spie.org](mailto:Jennifero@spie.org) or [dlang@optica.org](mailto:dlang@optica.org).



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

*Thank you to all who participated in our first Congressional Visit Day of 2023! We look forward to a busy year of advocacy on behalf of the optics, photonics, and quantum communities!*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edward White".



## CONTACT US

David Lang, Optica  
(formerly OSA)  
Jennifer O'Bryan, SPIE

VISIT OUR  
WEBSITE



