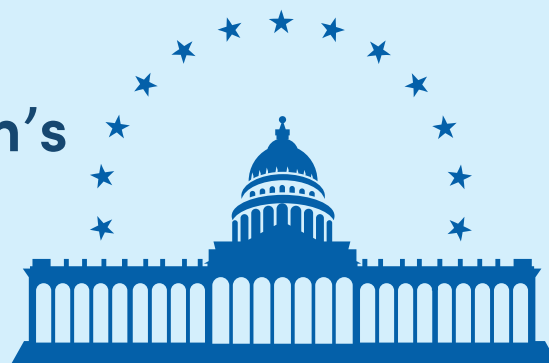


# Assessing the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program's peer-review process

Roxanne Evande, University of Delaware  
Science advocacy case study

Supported by the ASBMB Advocacy Training Program



## Overview

Evande was concerned by examples, on social media, of unconscious and implicit bias experienced by applicants to the National Science Foundation's fellowship program. She was motivated to investigate applicants' and reviewers' experiences and share her findings with the agency.

## Activities

- Created a survey of awardees, recipients of honorable mentions, and individuals who did not receive fellowships.
- Created a survey to gauge reviewers' responses to in-person training seminars and if they witnessed biased fellowship reviewing.
- Analyzed the data.

## Results

- Engaged the scientific community through social media platforms (LinkedIn, Twitter, Instagram) and organizational emails to distribute the surveys.
- Created a policy brief to provide informed recommendations for improving the NSF GRFP review process, including greater transparency in the review process and in-person bias training.

### Conduct a survey

Kansas University has [a resource](#) for those interested in conducting surveys.

**Get help from the ASBMB**

Contact us at [advocacy@asbmb.org](mailto:advocacy@asbmb.org).



### About the advocate

Roxanne Evande is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Delaware. Her research explores the cellular mechanisms of the human papillomavirus E2 protein. She was a member of the 2022 cohort of the ASBMB Advocacy Training Program and also has completed the ASBMB's The Art of Science Communication course, which focuses on presenting information to lay audiences. Evande has served on the executive board for her institution's student government. She earned her bachelor's degree from Penn State University.