

15 YEARS

2009 - 2024

CCST Science & Technology Policy Fellows

PhD scientists, engineers, and social scientists making California's policies **#StrongerWithScience**.



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Kathleen Chen (she/her/hers)
Assembly Utilities and Energy Committee

Born and raised in the Bay Area, Kathleen studied chemical and material advances for sustainable food systems from herbicides to cultured meat.
PhD: Chemistry and Biochemistry, UCLA
BA: Chemistry, Wellesley College

Assembly



Stephanie Choing (she/her/hers)
Assembly Transportation Committee

From the Bay Area, Stephanie used lasers and x-rays to study materials that absorb sunlight to make hydrogen and oxygen gas from water, and spent the last seven years in patent law.
PhD: Chemistry, UC Berkeley **BA:** Chemistry, Northwestern University

Assembly



Brenda Cisneros Larios (she/her/hers)
Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee

From the Bay Area, Brenda studied the neural control of reproduction, including hormone release and reproductive behaviors.
PhD: Molecular & Integrative Physiology, University of Michigan
BS: Physiology, San Francisco State University

Assembly



Erik Davies (he/him/his)
California Air Resources Board, Office of the Chair

Originally from southern California, Erik studied the processes of planet formation using dynamic compression experiments.
PhD: Earth and Planetary Science, UC Davis
BS: Physics, University of Redlands

Executive



Jill Horing (she/her/hers)
California Energy Commission, Office of Chair Hochschild

Originally from New York, Jill moved to California to study climate change impacts, ultimately focusing on wildfire risk management.
PhD: Management Science and Engineering, Stanford University
BA: Environmental Engineering, Dartmouth College

Executive



Ellia La (she/her/hers)
Dept. of Toxic Substances Control, Office of Leg. and Reg. Review

Born in South Korea and raised in Silicon Valley, Ellia used light to stabilize colorful pigments commonly found in fruits and vegetables.
PhD: Food Science & Technology, The Ohio State University
BS: Chemistry and Biochemistry, UC Santa Barbara

Executive



Max Ladow (he/they/any)
Senate Housing Committee

A New Yorker resettling to the bay for a Ph.D., Max studied emotions and memory in the brain, while advocating for diversity and inclusion.
PhD: Neuroscience, UCSF
BS: Neuroscience, Brown University

Senate



Alexandra Lanjewar (she/her/hers)
Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development

Originally from New York, Alex's research focused on dynamic processes underlying neurodevelopment and how disruptions contribute to deficits.
PhD: Neuroscience, University of Southern California
BS: Neuroscience, University of Miami

Executive



Benjamin O'Brien Hokanson (he/him/his)
Senate Transportation Committee

Excited to go from Wisconsin winters to the Golden State, Ben studied how to protect the brain from fetal herpes virus, a leading cause of birth defects.
PhD: Cell Biology, Medical College of Wisconsin
BA: Neuroscience, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Senate



Sarina Patel (she/her/hers)
Assembly Emergency Management Committee

Inspired by studying abroad in a post-disaster city, Sarina studied earthquake early warning systems and seismic safety, using community-sourced data.
PhD: Earth and Planetary Science, UC Berkeley
BA: Geology, Middlebury College

Assembly



Julianne Rolf (she/her/hers)
Department of Finance

Born and raised in the Inland Empire of southern California, Julianne studied how to prevent salt formation in water treatment processes.
PhD: Chemical and Environmental Engineering, Yale University
BS: Environmental Engineering, UC Riverside

Executive



Holly Rudel (she/her/hers)
Senate Environmental Quality Committee

Originally from New Jersey, Holly moved from Maine to Connecticut for grad school, where she studied sustainable water treatment technologies.
PhD: Environmental Engineering, Yale University
BA: Chemical Physics, Bowdoin College

Senate



Nicholas Santiago (he/him/his)
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment

Ohio raised, California reborn, Nicholas studied toxicants and neurological disease in addition to improving STEM education and mentorship.
PhD: Environmental Health and Toxicology, UC Santa Cruz
BS: Biology and Society, Neurobio. and Behavior Conc., Cornell University

Executive



Slater Sharp (he/him/his)
Assembly Privacy and Consumer Protection Committee

Raised in Palo Alto, Slater earned his PhD studying neuroscience at Harvard. Slater enjoys board games, pub trivia, coffee, and spicy foods.
PhD: Neurobiology, Harvard University
BA: Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Cornell College

Assembly