

# **2025 / 26** **ANNUAL REPORT**

# **INSIGHT TO INNOVATION**

**Strengthening California Policy**

---

## **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**

Guiding California's Approach to  
Frontier AI Governance and Safety

---

Launching the Legislative Staff  
Academy on AI



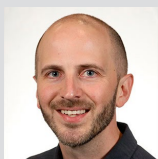
**CCST**  
CALIFORNIA COUNCIL ON  
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

## Authors



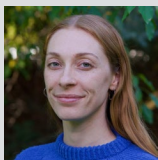
Keleigh Friedrich

Director of Communications  
Project Manager  
[keleigh.friedrich@ccst.us](mailto:keleigh.friedrich@ccst.us)



Mikel Shybut, PhD

Director of Strategic Initiatives  
Senior Editor / Designer  
[mikel.shybut@ccst.us](mailto:mikel.shybut@ccst.us)



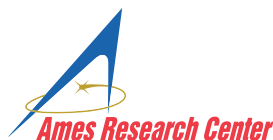
Bailey Mknelly

Program Associate  
Assistant Editor / Designer  
[bailey.mknelly@ccst.us](mailto:bailey.mknelly@ccst.us)

## Read Online



# CCST Partner Institutions



## About CCST

The California Council on Science and Technology is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that serves as a trusted source of expert science and technology advice for California policymakers—powered by a world-class partner network. CCST was established via a unanimous vote of the California State Legislature in 1988 to make California's policies stronger with science and technology.

## Mission

Serve as a trusted, nonpartisan source of expert science and technology advice for California policymakers, powered by a world-class partner network.

## Vision

A resilient and prosperous California that thrives on partnerships between science, technology, and policy communities.

# From Insight to Innovation: Strengthening California Policy



he origin of CCST began with a simple idea: harness the power of California's exceptional research institutions and technical talent to advance California's status as a global leader in science and technology policymaking. Nearly 40 years later, CCST has fulfilled and expanded that charge.

Over the last year, we launched our Science Residency Program, embedding senior-level Science Advisors directly within state government to counsel executive leadership. The program builds on 17 years of experience running our flagship CCST Science & Technology Policy Fellowship.

We also launched our first-ever Legislative Academy to equip Capitol staff with the grounding they need for fast-moving technology policymaking in AI. Along with a cohort of AI Science Advisors placed at the Governor's Office of Emergency Services and California Department of Technology, these efforts extend our commitment to the thoughtful integration of technical expertise into state policymaking, which includes a clear focus on frontier AI governance and safety, from policy development in the Legislature to regulatory implementation in the Executive Branch. Neither program existed a year ago. Both now shape how California governs one of the most consequential technologies of our time.

Our annual events, Science & Technology Week and Science Day, brought policymakers, researchers, and industry leaders together to form deeper partnerships. Our 2025-2029 Strategic Plan lays out a clear vision for CCST's next chapter, and our latest Federal Labs Impact Report highlights the essential value of California's federal laboratories to the state's economy, security, and scientific leadership.

None of this happens without the extraordinary community that surrounds CCST — our staff, our Fellows and alumni, our Partner Institutions, the Distinguished Experts and collaborators across all of our programs, and the policy officials who trust us to bring them credible, nonpartisan counsel. We are grateful to be part of it, and optimistic about what we will accomplish together in the year ahead.

With determination and partnership,

**Andrew McIlroy, PhD**  
Chair, Board of Directors  
Associate Labs Director  
(Retired) Sandia  
National Laboratories

**Julianne McCall, PhD**  
CEO

---

## Table of Contents

|                                                                     |    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| From Insight to Innovation:<br>Strengthening California Policy..... | 1  |
| Expanding CCST's Model for<br>Delivering Trusted Science .....      | 2  |
| Building AI Fluency for California's<br>Legislative Staff.....      | 3  |
| Grounded in Evidence, Tailored for<br>Policymakers.....             | 4  |
| Powering Partnerships Across<br>Sectors to Advance our Mission ...  | 5  |
| Celebrating Science and<br>Technology Informing Policy .....        | 6  |
| Science Day at the California<br>Natural Resources Agency .....     | 8  |
| 2025 CCST S&T Policy Fellows.....                                   | 9  |
| Board Chair Cowhey Steps Down<br>After Decades of Service .....     | 10 |
| Board of Directors.....                                             | 11 |
| Strategic Goals .....                                               | 12 |
| Financial Reports .....                                             | 13 |
| 2025 Donors.....                                                    | 13 |



  
**Andy McIlroy, PhD**  
Board Chair



  
**Julianne McCall, PhD**  
CEO



CCST Science Residency staff with Science Advisors following their Sacramento orientation. Center: Cal OES AI Science Advisor **Michael Chen**, CNRA Science Advisor **Dr. Andrew Jones**, CCST CEO **Julianne McCall**, and CDT AI Science Advisor **Dr. Justin Norman** at the California State Capitol.



**Eric Chu, PhD**  
Director of Science

"CCST's strength lies in our nimbleness, independence, and adaptability. Depending on the need and timeline, we can deliver peer-reviewed reports, convene the right partners at the right time, place invaluable expertise directly inside state government, or provide rapid, independent analyses of complex scientific questions. Whatever the format, our commitment stays the same: reliable, nonpartisan advice, powered by a world-class partner network."

— Eric Chu

## Expanding CCST's Model for Delivering Trusted Science

### CCST's First Science Advisor

In January 2026, CCST marked the beginning of its new Science Residency Program when we welcomed **Dr. Andrew D. Jones** as the inaugural Science Advisor to the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) in the office of **Secretary Wade Crowfoot**. Dr. Jones brings 15 years of experience as a researcher at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and now advises CNRA leadership on climate resilience, biodiversity, wildfire, clean energy, water management, and ecosystem health.

A connector across sectors, Dr. Jones is also leading several initiatives to embed science more deeply into the agency's work, including connecting state leaders across a new inter-agency science council and organizing science symposia to connect CNRA's efforts with the broader scientific communities.

### AI Science Advisors

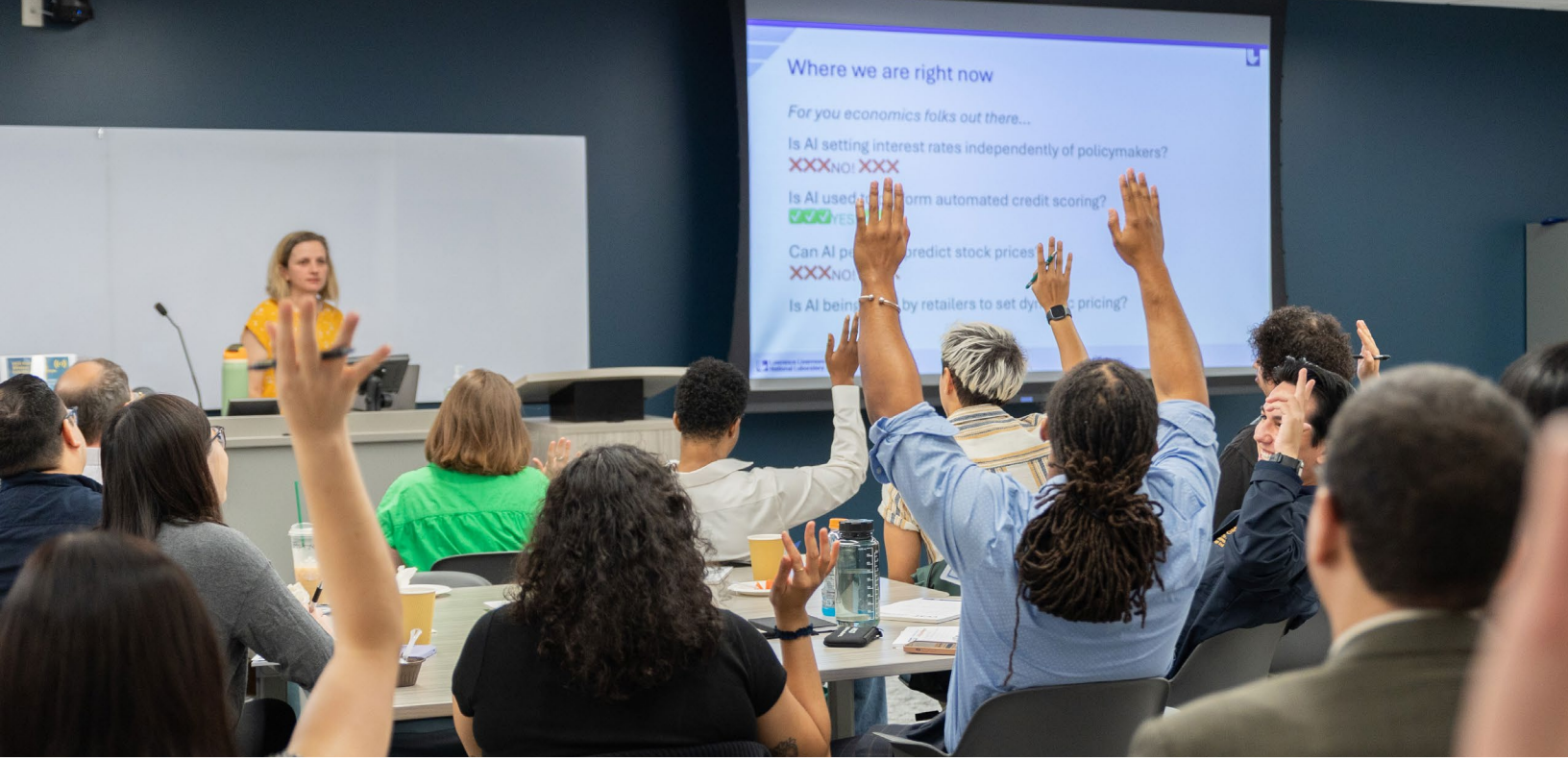
With the passage of nation-leading frontier AI safety legislation in SB 53 (2025, Wiener), California needed high caliber, expert talent to support implementation across its agencies.

A pivotal moment, the size and capabilities of frontier AI models continued to advance rapidly as the competition for talent in the AI workforce was fierce.

In Summer 2026, CCST placed three AI Science Advisors to advise the executive branch on frontier AI safety, risk assessment, and the implementation of new AI safety legislation: **Michael Chen** and **Lawrence Chan** at the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) and **Dr. Justin Norman**, at the California Department of Technology (CDT).

### Looking Ahead

Beginning Fall 2026, CCST will place a Science Advisor on Emerging Technologies with a joint appointment to the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) and the Labor and Workforce Development Agency, extending the Science Residency model into California's innovation economy. Meanwhile, our AI Science Residency Program will grow this fall with the hiring of Senior AI Fellows at each agency, who will serve as technical advisors on state-level AI policy and governance.



Legislative staff participate in CCST's AI fundamentals training session, held as part of the Legislative Staff Academy on AI launch programming.

# Building AI Fluency for California's Legislative Staff

## AI Policy Initiative

CCST launched its AI Policy Initiative to keep science at the center of California's fast-moving AI conversation. This past year, we expanded the initiative to build lasting infrastructure for policymakers.

With more than 50 AI-related bills introduced in the 2025 legislative session, California's legislative staff needed trusted, nonpartisan ways to build AI fluency fast. In response, CCST launched its Legislative Staff Academy on AI.

## AI Academy Launch

The Academy launch delivered four key events:

- AI Fundamentals training series
- AI and California's Workforce Roundtable
- AMD, Google, and NVIDIA site visits
- AI-in-Action Showcase

Across the events, legislative staff learned about core topics related to AI including what the technology can and can't do, implications for intellectual property law, effects on Califor-

nia's workforce and economic competitiveness, and how it's being deployed across industries from software to healthcare to research.

## Cohort-Based Model

The academy began its cohort-based training sessions in September 2026, hosting seminars across key topics in AI policy and providing a forum to discuss late-breaking events and challenges. By cultivating a core cohort of Legislative staff, the AI Academy will build a community of practice in the AI policy space, while providing drop-in opportunities for additional staff who wish to engage on specific aspects of the curriculum.

## Comprehensive AI Approach

Taken together, the AI Academy and AI Science Residency program represent CCST's AI Policy Initiative growing into a pillar for supporting policymakers' efforts to determine how California governs the technology, from the Legislature drafting bills to the Executive Branch implementing regulations.



**Héctor Corzo, PhD**  
Senior Science Officer

"The AI Academy provides grounded, actionable understanding in a rapidly evolving landscape, supporting California's leaders as they shape AI-related policy and strategy."

— Héctor Corzo

**Omidyar Network**

**KAPOR FOUNDATION**

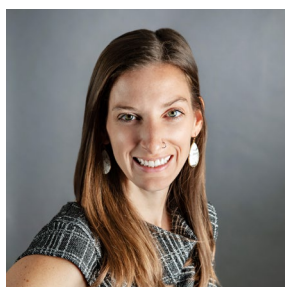
**Powered by Partnership**  
AI Academy and Residency Program made possible by philanthropic contributions including Omidyar Network, Kapur Foundation, and Ralston Family Fund in collaboration with placement agencies.

**GORDON AND BETTY MOORE FOUNDATION**

**CNRA Science Advisor**  
Placement is in partnership with the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation.



CalEPA Secretary Yana Garcia speaks at an S&T Week Panel in partnership with UC Office of the President, moderated by Julianne McCall and featuring Samuel Assefa, Senator Ben Allen, and Steve Monfort.



**Rhianna Hohbein, PhD**  
Senior Science Officer

"CCST serves as a trusted resource for policymakers — whether that's helping them navigate a rapidly-moving energy landscape or evaluate the tradeoffs of pesticide use across the state. No matter the topic, we deliver clear, independent analysis policymakers can act on with confidence."

— Rhianna Hohbein

### Partners Mentioned

- UC Disaster Resilience Network
- UC Berkeley Institute for Security and Governance
- California Department of Water Resources
- California Department of Pesticide Regulation

## Grounded in Evidence, Tailored for Policymakers

### Timely Expertise, Relevant Policy Issues

CCST Expert Briefings address urgent and emerging issues facing California policymakers. As part of our ongoing Disaster Resilience Initiative, CCST completed a four-part Climate Change and Human Mobility briefing series in partnership with the UC Disaster Resilience Network and the UC Berkeley Institute for Security and Governance. The series examined how climate-driven displacement is reshaping housing, insurance, and community resilience for Californians and communities beyond the state's borders.

Additional Expert Briefings spanned topics as diverse as "AI Tools for Addressing Conservation and Biodiversity," "Preparing California's Energy Grid for New Load Sources at Scale," and "Natural Capital as Infrastructure." CCST expert briefings provide a trusted space for policymakers to learn about complex topics facing California's ecosystems, communities, and economy.

### Water Expertise "on Tap"

CCST's convening power was in full effect this year and included a new partnership with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). In September 2025, ahead of Science Day, CCST supported DWR in mounting its inaugural Water Resources Science Sym-

posium, "Science Drives Our Decision-Making," bringing together water resources professionals from across the state to explore the science shaping California's most pressing water challenges.

### Studying Fumigant Alternatives

Responding to a request from the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR), CCST conducted a multi-phase study on fumigant use in California and available alternatives. The study, which includes three peer-reviewed reports and proceedings from an expert convening, gives regulators an independent basis for decisions on chemicals that growers, workers, and neighboring communities all have a stake in.

### Energy Primer Update

We continued our energy work with a 2025 update to CCST's primer for energy policy, "Key Challenges for California's Energy Future." Authored by CCST Senior Science Officer **Rhianna Hohbein, PhD**, under the guidance of an expert Steering Committee chaired by **Jane Long**, the primer explores the top eight energy challenges facing California and has become a go-to resource for energy staffers. Selected topics were informed by interviews with policymakers and 30+ leading energy experts across California's academic and research institutions.



CCST hosts SoCal Grantmakers and the Climate and Wildfire Institute for a day of conversations at the intersection of wildfire science and policy in Sacramento.

# Powering Partnerships Across Sectors to Advance our Mission

## New and Notable Partnerships

### California Governor's Office of Emergency Services

CCST has a long history of placing Fellows at Cal OES (our first Executive Fellow Nicole Meyer-Morse '14 was placed with Cal OES well before we fully expanded the program in 2020 to include Executive Branch offices). In 2026, we made CCST history by placing two AI Science Advisors at Cal OES to support implementation of SB 53 and to advise on other frontier AI safety challenges.

### California Department of Technology

Given our names, it was only a matter of time before we collaborated with CDT. In 2026, we placed an AI Science Advisor with CDT — one of the first two placements in the program — to help implement their core responsibilities as defined in SB 53 and to keep pace with the rapidly advancing AI field and bills heading their way.

### California Department of Water Resources

In addition to supporting their inaugural Water Resources Science Symposium, CCST is working with DWR to develop guidelines for using

AI tools to generate plain language summaries of DWR-led scientific research publications.

### California Water Data Consortium

CCST is working with the CWDC to modernize California's water data infrastructure, collaborating with a range of issue-area experts to develop the appropriate stakeholder coalition.

### Delta Stewardship Council

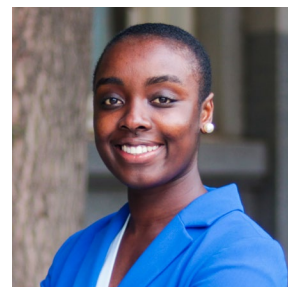
CCST is partnering with the Bay-Delta Science Conference planning team, offering several in-depth trainings on how to effectively communicate with policymakers, and is a proud "Delta Smelt Tier" sponsor of the event.

### California Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation

Building on an established partnership with LCI, CCST is providing technical research and copyediting support for the California Fifth Climate Change Assessment's 15 Core Climate Research reports.

### Climate and Wildfire Institute

**Pictured:** In partnership with CWI, CCST is advising the Legislature on wildfire policy. Modeled after CCST's legislative science services, their first policy memo, on home hardening standards, was published in June 2026.



**Ope Oyewole, PhD**  
Science Officer

"CCST's value lies in our ability to leverage our network and build partnerships that advance science-supported policymaking in California. As California's challenges don't come one at a time or in one shape, neither does our work. We endeavor to connect our S&T partners and policymakers with whatever the moment calls for."

— Ope Oyewole

## Coming Soon

CCST is excited to partner with GO-Biz in placing an Emerging Technology Science Advisor and starting an Executive Branch Emerging Technology Academy.



Julianne McCall kicks off S&T Week



Celebrating 16 years of CCST Science & Technology Policy Fellows.



2025 Science Translators in the CA State Capitol

# Celebrating Science and Technology Informing Policy

## CCST S&T WEEK

CCST's annual Science & Technology Week brings together policy leaders, science and technology experts, CCST champions, and our incredible network of Partner Institutions to discuss some of the state's biggest challenges and opportunities.

### Partners Mentioned

- Office of Lt. Governor Eleni Kounalakis
- GO-Biz
- UC Office of the President
- Berkeley Lab
- Caltech
- Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
- UC Davis
- Silicon Valley Leadership Group
- Adobe
- FutureHouse
- SAP
- IBM

## S&T Week 2025

S&T Week opened with a keynote on usable science for data-driven decision-making, in partnership with the UC Office of the President (UCOP) Research & Innovation team, and closed with an Expert Briefing on bridging the gap between research and policy. In between, we welcomed Science Translators in a showcase sponsored by the Office of **Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis** and celebrated 16 years of CCST Science & Technology Policy Fellows.

## S&T Week 2026

### Partnership Forum

CCST's 9th annual S&T Week kicked off with our inaugural Partnership Forum — a roundtable convening legislative and agency leaders, philanthropic partners, and CCST Board members to explore strengthening the resilience of California's science-advice ecosystem. The week closed on a theme of partnership as well, with a UCOP-partnered panel on California's climate research investments.

### AI and Quantum

CCST's AI-in-Action Showcase, held in collaboration with the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, brought nine displayers — including Adobe, Caltech, FutureHouse, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, SAP, and UC Davis — to demonstrate real-world AI applications for legislative and executive staff, capping the launch phase of the Legislative Staff Academy on AI.

Two panels followed, on trust in the AI age and AI as an engine for scientific discovery.

The closing panel, on Quantum Innovation in California, brought together IBM, Lawrence Berkeley and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories, and Rigetti Computing, moderated by GO-Biz Deputy Director of Innovation and Emerging Technologies **Trelynd Bradley** to discuss California's quantum research infrastructure and workforce pipeline.

## Science in Public Service

CCST's Science in Public Service Awards acknowledge public servants with track records of prioritizing science and technology issues and who actively value efforts to connect science to policy.





Emily Sands from Intuitive Surgical speaking with Berkeley Lab's Faith Dukes at the AI Technology Showcase



Nonresident Scholar at Carnegie California, Scott Kohler speaking on the AI Opportunities Panel



New Board Chair Andy McIlroy presenting outgoing Board Chair Peter Cowhey with a Letter of Appreciation



Fellows and Alumni at the S&T Week 2026 Reception



The "Quantum Innovation in California: The State of the Sector" roundtable at the Stanley Mosk Library and Courts Building



Legislative staff asking questions during the Quantum Innovation in California roundtable



Senator Scott Wiener speaking with CCST board members Harvey Fineberg and William Tong



Michael Hobley from the California Institute of Technology showcasing their AI applications to state government staff



Secretary for Natural Resources Wade Crowfoot opens Science Day 2025



CCST CEO Julianne McCall opens the keynote panel at Science Day 2025.



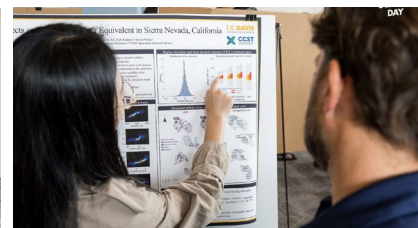
Jenn Phillips speaks on keynote panel



2025 CCST S&T Policy Fellows placed in the Executive Branch.



Secretary Crowfoot moderates a fireside chat



UC Davis scientist presents poster at Science Day 2025

## CCST & CNRA PRESENT SCIENCE DAY

"Science has never been more important. The partnerships that are growing in this room and across the state are more critical than ever."

— Natural Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot

# Science Day at the California Natural Resources Agency

## Strengthening Partnerships for a Resilient California

On September 29, 2025, CCST and the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) engaged more than 400 scientists, policymakers, and partners at CNRA headquarters in Sacramento for the third annual Science Day.

The power of collaboration was on display — from the keynote panel on sustaining partnerships, to breakout sessions on nature and health, data and technology, and climate planning, to the conversations at the poster session, career center, and networking mixer.

## Highlighting Success Stories

The keynote panel brought two examples of state-science partnership to the stage. The first traced back to a conversation at CCST's inaugural Science Day in 2023: a partnership between the State and NASA's Ames Research Center that has since grown into the Wildfire, Ecosystem Resilience, and Risk Assessment (WERK) Initiative, now backed by \$30 million in state funding. In 2025, that partnership delivered California's first-ever statewide high-resolution ecosystem monitoring dataset — a shared win, advancing state priorities while deepening research capacity.

Another example, California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment, is a state-academia

partnership that will contribute to the scientific foundation for understanding climate-related vulnerability throughout California, with author and reviewer teams that extend beyond academia to include community and tribal partners.

## Fireside Chat with Leaders

Secretary Wade Crowfoot moderated a Fireside Chat with NASA Ames' **Anthony Colaprete**, Director of Science (Acting), and CCST Board Member **Theresa Maldonado**, Vice President for Research and Innovation at the UC Office of the President. The conversation explored California's scientific enterprise, the state's role in supporting science in uncertain times, and what it takes to sustain partnerships like WERK for the long haul.

## Poster Session & Networking

More than 50 researchers presented at the poster session, spanning state and federal agencies, universities, national labs, and non-profits, on topics from biodiversity to wildfire to water and energy. Attendees also connected directly with representatives from five state departments — CAL FIRE, the Department of Water Resources, California State Parks, the Department of Conservation, and Caltrans — to explore career pathways and opportunities.



Science Day is held in close partnership with the California Natural Resources Agency.

**Register + More**  
[Science Day 2026 is scheduled for October 5-6, 2026.](#)

## What Legislators Are Saying

"This is a program that I continue to praise for the caliber of the Fellows that it produces every year... It brings together our scientific community and policymaking and has such a valuable impact on our legislative process."



— Senator Ben Allen

"As the chair of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee, the CCST Science Fellows program is particularly near and dear to my heart. Last year, EQ became the first committee in legislative history to have all three of its consultant positions filled with Science Fellow alumni."



— Senator Catherine Blakespear



**Bethany Hopkins, PhD**  
Science Fellows  
Program Manager

"The 2025 Fellows brought exceptional talent, passion, and conscientiousness to their placements in the Legislature and throughout the Executive Branch. I continue to be impressed by their commitment to serving California and desire to support the state's long-term future through science-informed policy."

— Bethany Hopkins



**16**  
Years  
2009-2025

**186**  
Fellows

From PhD Institutions  
Across the US and  
Internationally

**63**  
Universities

**26**  
States

**4**  
Countries

# 2025 CCST S&T Policy Fellows



**John Bennett**

**Privacy and Consumer Protection  
Committee**

**PhD:** Chemistry, Stanford University  
**BA:** Biochemistry and Classical Studies,  
Colgate University

Assembly



**Benjamin Lu**

**Senator Catherine Blakespear**

**PhD:** Neuroscience, New York  
University  
**BS:** Psychology, Princeton University

Senate



**Jessica Bolivar**

**California Natural Resources  
Agency**

**PhD:** Biochemistry, Molecular, Cell and  
Developmental Biology UC Davis  
**BA:** Botany, San Francisco State Univ.

Executive

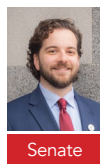


**Taylor McKie**

**Environmental Quality Committee**

**PhD:** Oceanography, UC San Diego  
**BS:** Environ. Health Engineering,  
Georgia Tech

Senate



**Adam Cooper**

**Senator Ben Allen**

**PhD:** Analytical Chemistry, UC San Diego  
**BS:** Chemistry, Stetson University

Senate



**AJ Mendiola**

**Transportation Committee**

**PhD:** Biochemistry, UC Davis  
**MS:** Biochemistry, Cal State LA  
**BS:** Biochemistry, Cal State LA

Assembly



**Hannah Griggs**

**California Energy Commission,  
Office of Chair Hochschild**

**PhD:** Physics, Georgia Tech  
**BA:** Physics & Math, Bryn Mawr College

Executive

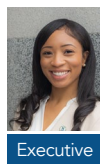


**Julia Mouat**

**Local Government Committee**

**PhD:** Integrative Genetics and  
Genomics, UC Davis  
**BS:** Microbiology, University of  
Pittsburgh

Assembly

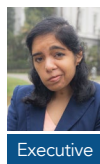


**Ayana Henderson**

**California Department of Toxic  
Substances Control**

**PhD:** Biological and Biomedical Science,  
Harvard University  
**BS:** Biology, University of Maryland

Executive

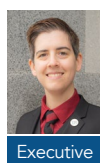


**Raisa Rahim**

**California Department of Food  
and Agriculture**

**PhD:** Neuroscience, UC Davis  
**BS:** Psychology, Biology, UC Davis

Executive



**J Humphreys**

**Governor's Office of Business and  
Office of Environmental Health Haz-  
ard Assessment**

**PhD:** Geoscience, UT Dallas  
**BA:** Visual and Dramatic Arts, Rice Univ.

Executive



**Jenna Roper**

**Senator Henry Stern**

**PhD:** Bioengineering, UC Riverside  
**BS:** Bioengineering, UC Riverside

Senate



**Kristen Koenig**

**Utilities and Energy Committee**

**PhD:** Molecular Biosciences, UT Austin  
**BA:** Molecular/Cell Biology, History,  
UCSB

Assembly



**Hayes Stephens**

**California Air Resources Board,  
Office of the Chair**

**PhD:** Geophysics, University of Chicago  
**BA:** Astronomy & Astrophysics, UCSB

Executive





Julianne McCall and Board Chair Andy McIlroy present outgoing Board Chair Peter Cowhey with a Letter of Appreciation

# Board Chair Cowhey Steps Down After Decades of Service

## A Lasting Legacy for CCST

Effective March 2026, **Dr. Andrew McIlroy** was voted Chair of the Board of Directors, succeeding **Dr. Peter Cowhey**, who stepped down after eight transformational years as Board Chair and nearly two decades of service to CCST. Cowhey hands off an organization that has grown in reach, credibility, and impact across California's science and technology policy landscape.

During his tenure, CCST launched the Disaster Resilience and AI Policy Initiatives, established the Fellowship endowment, reimagined its advisory programs, and deepened its partnerships across California's state agencies and research institutions. In addition to serving in

the Clinton and Obama Administrations, Cowhey is Dean Emeritus and Qualcomm Chair Emeritus of the UC San Diego School of Global Policy and Strategy, where he served as dean from 2002 to 2021.

## Experienced Leadership

Dr. McIlroy joined the Board in 2020 and recently retired from Sandia National Laboratories, where he served as Associate Laboratories Director for Integrated Security Solutions and led the California laboratory. Over a more than three-decade career at Sandia, he held numerous leadership roles advancing national security, energy, and technology innovation. He brings that same cross-sector perspective to the role.

"The strength of CCST has always come from the community behind it — the scientists, engineers, policymakers, and institutions working together."

— Peter Cowhey, PhD

"Science and technology for the public interest are essential to California's long-term prosperity, economic resilience, and global leadership."

— Andrew McIlroy, PhD

## Read More Online

- [Leadership Transition Announcement](#)
- [A Message from Andy McIlroy](#)
- [Reflections from Peter Cowhey](#)

# Board of Directors



**Chair**

**Andrew McIlroy**

Sandia National Laboratories

Integrated Security Solutions  
Associate Labs Director\*



Outgoing in 2025

**Peter Cowhey**

UC San Diego

Dean & Qualcomm Prof. Emeritus,  
Global Policy and Strategy



Outgoing in 2025

**Vice Chair**

**Lisa A. Rossbacher**

Cal Poly Humboldt

President Emerita



**Secretary-Treasurer**

**Ishwar K. Puri**

USC

VP of Research; Prof., Aerospace  
and Mechanical Engineering



**Carol Burns**

Berkeley Lab

Deputy Director for Research  
and Chief Research Officer



**Erika Bustamante**

Stanford University

Associate Vice President of  
State Government Affairs



New in 2026

**Bruce Darling**

National Academy of Sciences  
& National Research Council

Executive Officer



New in 2026

**Harvey Fineberg**

Harvard University

Professor Emeritus



**Richard Flagan**

Caltech

Professor, Chemistry and Chemical  
Engineering & Engineering and  
Applied Science



New in 2026

**Glenn Fox**

Lawrence Livermore

National Laboratory

Principal Associate Director for the  
Physical and Life Sciences Directorate



New in 2026

**William Jeffrey**

Airstream Venture Partners

Founder and General Partner



Outgoing in 2025

**Pramod Khargonekar**

UC Irvine

Vice Chancellor for Research and  
Dist. Prof. of Electrical Engineering  
and Computer Science



**Aisha Lowe**

Los Rios Community  
College District

Assoc. Vice Chancellor of Planning,  
Research, and Institutional Effectiveness



**Theresa Maldonado**

UC Office of the President

Vice President for Research &  
Innovation



**Ganesh Raman**

California State University

Assistant Vice Chancellor, Research



**Dustin Schroeder**

Stanford University

Professor of Geophysics and  
Electrical Engineering



**Jeffrey Scott**

UC San Diego

Lecturer, School of Global Policy  
and Strategy



**Louis Stewart**

NVIDIA

Head of Strategic Initiatives, Global  
Developer Ecosystem



New in 2026

**William G. Tong**

San Diego State University

Provost and Senior Vice President



**Eugene Tu**

NASA's Ames

Research Center

Center Director

# A Strategic Plan Forward

## Expert Advice for Policymakers.

**Powered by Partnership.**



**Mikel Shybut, PhD**  
*Director  
Strategic Initiatives*



**Henriette Canino, PhD**  
*Program Manager  
Strategic Initiatives,  
AI Science Residency Program*

### Strategic Initiatives: Putting the Plan into Action

In 2025, after a considered process with Board and Staff engagement, we completed CCST's new Strategic Plan. The plan guides CCST's programmatic focus through 2029. To help implement our ambitious goals, we established a Strategic Initiatives wing at CCST.

Led by **Mikel Shybut** and **Henriette Canino**, the team spans science, communication, design, outreach, and fundraising. This interdisciplinary approach helps to coordinate across teams to support a cohesive, complementary path toward achieving our goals and objectives.

CCST exists to harness the abundance of scientific and technological expertise throughout the state. Our work relies on channeling partnerships across institutions to be a leading source of nonpartisan, world-class science and technology expert advice for policymakers.

Our strategic goals reflect our duty to provide policymakers with the very best evidence and insight the state has to offer, engaging leading experts to do so. Key objectives include our ongoing academy and science residency programs. By fostering strong connections between the science, technology, and policy communities, we help policymakers navigate complex challenges, anticipate emerging issues, and make decisions that ensure a resilient future.

.....

## Strategic Goals

2025-2029

### 1. Equip California policymakers with trusted and timely expertise.

Support California policymakers as a go-to partner for science and technology expertise, engaging our partner network and broader community to provide innovative programs, reliable advice, and resources to strengthen evidence-based policymaking.

.....

### 2. Strengthen California's science and technology policy talent pipeline.

Channel the nation's brightest PhD scientists and engineers into public service in California and expand other opportunities to grow the next generation of science and technology policy leaders.

.....

### 3. Anticipate California's future opportunities and challenges.

Provide forward-looking guidance to prepare policymakers for emerging issues, long-term trends, and technological change through expert insight and recommendations that ensure California's resilience and continued science and technology leadership.

.....

### 4. Integrate California's science, technology, and policy communities.

Foster a dynamic, readily-accessible network of science, technology, and policy experts who collaborate across sectors to generate innovative ideas and practical solutions for policymakers.

# Financial Reports

## Revenues (2025)

|                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Partner Institutions | \$891,880          |
| Program Grants       | \$344,582          |
| Investment Income    | \$5,782,254        |
| Donations            | \$1,106,491        |
| ERC                  | \$285,675          |
| Other                | \$3,725            |
| <b>Total Revenue</b> | <b>\$8,414,607</b> |

## Expenses (2025)

|                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Program Services      | \$3,129,412        |
| Fundraising           | \$244,779          |
| Management & General  | \$1,027,056        |
| <b>Total Expenses</b> | <b>\$4,401,247</b> |

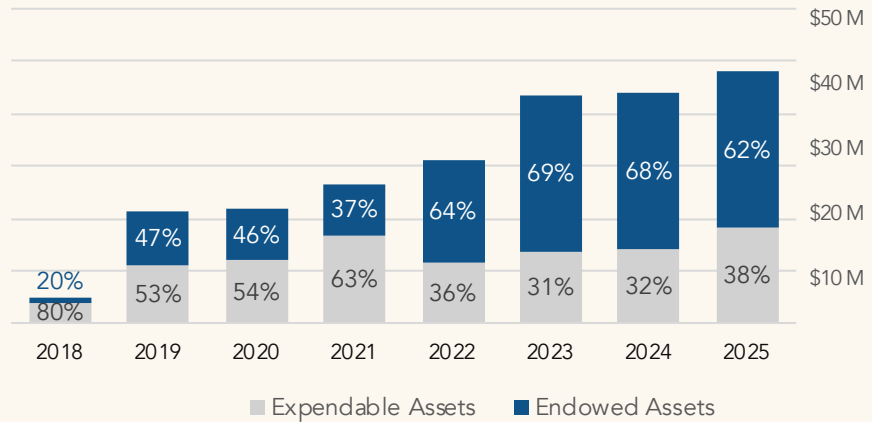
## Endowment

|            |              |
|------------|--------------|
| Fellowship | \$30,000,000 |
|------------|--------------|

In 2025, the endowment maintained its core balance of \$30 million, providing a stable and sustainable foundation for CCST's S&T Policy Fellowship.

## Net Assets

|             |                     |
|-------------|---------------------|
| 2018        | \$5,014,926         |
| 2019        | \$21,187,619        |
| 2020        | \$21,815,392        |
| 2021        | \$26,671,647        |
| 2022        | \$31,294,617        |
| 2023        | \$43,597,201        |
| 2024        | \$44,014,694        |
| <b>2025</b> | <b>\$48,028,054</b> |



Numbers here represent the result of our 2025 financial audit. Full financial statements, audited annually, are available [upon request](#). CCST receives financial support from our partners, the State of California, and private philanthropists.

# 2025 Donors

### \$10,000+

Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation

Jacobs Family Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation

Kapor Foundation

Omidyar Network

Peter Cowhey and M. Margaret McKeown

WHH Foundation

Woolley Family Fund

### \$5,000 - \$9,999

Johnny Carson Foundation

Bruce Alberts

Miriam John

Joseph Walkush

### \$1,000 - \$4,999

Andrew McIlroy

Anonymous

Berkeley Lab

David Goldston

Biswajit Paul (with Gates Foundation match)

Jeffrey Scott

Julianne McCall

Larry Toy, Better Future Foundation

Louis Stewart (with NVIDIA match)

Marianne Walck

Patrick and Daranee Lee

Paul Jennings

Quoc Bao Ha and Lauren Holt

Theresa Maldonado

### \$250 - \$999

Aisha Lowe

Andrew Blaskovich

Carlos Gutierrez

Donna King

Eugene Tu

Jared Ferguson

Jason and Tamara John

Jessica Westbrook and Ryan Gorman

John Hennessy

John and Mary Thompson in honor of Dr. John D. Thompson, Jr.

Julie Meier Wright in honor of Susan Hackwood, PhD

Kevin McAllister

Kristin Warren

Lisa and Tommy Poon

Loring and Beverly Wyllie

Mary Victoria Ruiz

Maxine Savitz

Michael Clegg

Michael Kavanaugh

Mikel Shybut

Neela Babu

Nicole McAllister

Sarah Brady and Nathan Ahlberg

Steven and Beverly Dorfman

### Up to \$249

Aiyana Cortez

Alejandra Rios

Alek Shybut

Anna Reade

Anonymous

Ben Rubin and Diana Wong

Benjamin Lu

Bret Benziger

Brie Lindsey

Carol Burns

Christine Shay

Clayton Blakley

Clio Korn

Dustin Schroeder

Dylan Sather

Eileen Sarasohn

Eric Chu

George Brazil

Gianni Alasua

Grayson Doucette

Ishwar Puri

Jacob Sacks

Jill Horing

John Thompson Jr.

Julianne Rolf

Jun Bando

Justin Hui

Karlton Larson

Keleigh Friedrich

Kimiko Klein

Kristopher Tjernell

Lamont McAllister

Lois Biehler

Manuella Yassa

Margaret Carter

Marissa Kraynak Montano

Mark Malakooti in memory of Ehsanollah Malakooti, MD

Mary Ann Friedrich

Michael and Ruth Berry

Pajau Vangay

Patti Hopkins

Paula Buck

Peggy Dewey

Randall Chinn and Katy Karen Zane

Renita Polk

Robert Parson

Samuel Mahanes

Sandra Faber

Sandra Nakagawa and Eliot Lash

Scott Stewie-Solomon

Scott Terrell

Shawna Johnson



**CCST**  
CALIFORNIA COUNCIL ON  
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Making California's Policies Stronger with Science and Technology Since 1988.

     @CCSTorg /    @CCSTfellows

---

1100 11th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-3965 | (916) 492-0996 | [ccst.us](http://ccst.us)