National Commission on Energy Policy

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Vito Stagliano Scholars Program

Program Background

To honor Vito Stagliano's life and career as an exceptional teacher, researcher, and public servant, and in recognition of his passion for sharing ideas while promoting work on the topics he pursued during his long and storied career, the Bipartisan Policy Center's National Commission on Energy Policy (NCEP) will annually award two students—graduate or undergraduate—summer internship opportunities to conduct research on pertinent energy policy topics in Washington, D.C. at NCEP's office headquarters.

Two fellows will be selected annually in a competition seeking innovative research proposals that address designated topics pertaining to current U.S. energy strategies. Those two students whose proposals are accepted will be invited to serve as interns at NCEP in Washington, D.C. for a 10-week period during the summer. Interns will split their time between bringing their research proposal to fruition and engaging in NCEP's normal business activities, which includes energy policy and technology research, advocacy, and other related endeavors.

All applications should be e-mailed to internships@energycommission.org and must be received no later than April 4, 2008. Applicants chosen for the program will be notified by May 2, 2008.

Award and Internship

Each selected student will receive a $5,000 stipend for the 10 week summer internship at the NCEP.

Application Process

Applicants who are attending an accredited U.S. college or university or are recent graduates should submit three pieces of information for consideration in the scholarship program:

1) **Cover letter:** A cover letter introducing the candidate and his/her research project and describing what he or she hopes to accomplish through the internship and beyond.
2) **Resume:** A resume detailing the applicant's education and applicable experiences.

3) **Research Proposal**: A proposal outlining the student's research project which should pertain to one of the topics listed below. **The research proposal must not exceed 3 pages in length.**

Research Proposal

The research proposal should contain the following elements. **The research proposal must not exceed 3 pages in length.**

1) Title of Project
2) Description of the Project and Purpose/Rationale
    - State the objective(s) of the study – what is known/unknown, why it is important, what are the specific aims, what impact your research may have on the field.
3) Materials and Methods
    - Outline how you propose to conduct the research. Make it easy for you to use as a guide when you are actually conducting the research.
4) Data Analysis/Data Requirements
    - State the proposed method of data analysis or the data requirements, if applicable.
5) Describe Deliverables
    - Describe the products that will result from the proposed analysis, such as a working paper, a thesis or dissertation, presentation, database, etc.

Proposed Topics:

Research projects must be related to one of the topics described below. However, given the breadth of each topic, students have significant latitude to explore a topic tailored to their interests and expertise. Students should propose a specific research topic that fits within one of these 5 areas (more specific sample topics are provided for each area).

1) *Low-carbon energy technology Research, Development, and Deployment (RDD&D)*: There is a long policy history of government research and incentives for energy technologies RD&D. Development and deployment of successful low-carbon energy technologies is critical to achieving greenhouse gas abatement. There is a critical need to improve and scale up RD&D management structures and provide adequate incentives to deploy new and emerging low-carbon energy technologies.

- Sample topic: “How depoliticizing the appropriations process enhances the quality and quantity of government research and development.”

2) *Land use issues with biofuels*:
   Interest and production of biofuels are at the forefront of current U.S. energy policy. However, policies such as renewable fuels standard and low carbon fuel standards may have unexpected consequences when land is used for fuel production.
   - Sample topic: “Investigating the unintended carbon dioxide impacts from increased production of biofuels under a Renewable Fuels Standard.”

3) *Nuclear power*:
   Nuclear currently supplies approximately 20 percent of U.S. electricity. Growing electricity demand and potential carbon constraints make nuclear power an attractive option going forward. However, there are various roadblocks to bringing new plants on-line, including financing, siting, long-term waste storage, and proliferation concerns.
   - Sample topic: “Nuclear Waste: Storage Options Beyond Yucca Mountain”

4) *Government role in adapting to climate change*:
   With current projections committing the world to some degree of global warming, policymakers must consider ways to adapt to a changing climate.
   - Sample topic: “Exploring federal adaptation policy options for coastal regions.”

5) *Energy security*:
   Safe and secure supplies of energy are the cornerstone of the U.S. economy. The recent sharp increase in oil prices could have significant consequences for the U.S. given the already high and growing levels of oil consumption and the near-total reliance of the U.S. transport sector on petroleum fuels.
   - Sample topic: “Oil Independence: Will the U.S. Ever Be Insulated from Oil Price Shocks?”

Requirements:

Interns will be required to produce a final deliverable upon completion of the 10-week internship. Such examples include a 15-20 page paper; database; presentation; etc.

About Vito Stagliano:

Vito Stagliano joined the National Commission on Energy Policy in March 2006 and served as Research Director until August 2007. Formerly a Federal executive, Vito served most of his public service career in the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), initially as Special Assistant to the Secretary, subsequently as head of the Policy Integration Office, and finally as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy Analysis. He assisted in the analyses and design of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 and the Energy Policy Act of 1992. He was awarded bronze and silver medals for exceptional service by Energy Secretary James D. Watkins and a Meritorious Service Medal by President George H.W. Bush. He retired from the Energy Department in 1992. He oversaw the analyses conducted by the DOE national laboratories that led to the promulgation of the first Federal climate change policy. He is the author of A Policy of Discontent: The Making of a National Energy Strategy and has contributed articles and research papers to the Electricity Journal, Public Utilities Fortnightly, RFF's RESOURCES, and DIALOGUE, the journal of the U.S. Association for Energy Economics. Stagliano was a member of the Theodore Thomas Society of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Southern Poverty Law Center and the American Poetry Society. He was a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and served on the staff of the Peace Corps in Ghana, Senegal, Bourkina Faso and Washington, DC.