PARTNERING WITH THE UCS SCIENCE NETWORK

The science advocacy movement is gaining momentum. We have seen scientists refusing to stay silent in the face of attacks on science that affect our health, safety, and environment, and there is enormous energy in the scientific community to extend its impact and engagement with the public and decisionmakers on policy issues that affect us all. By working in collaboration with our partners, the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) Science Network helps build the power of this movement and broadens cultural support for advocacy throughout the scientific community.

At the same time, it is vital that all our work, including our collaboration with partners, upholds our values of anti-racism, diversity, equity, and inclusion. UCS is committed to ensuring the Science Network is an inclusive community that embraces the full diversity of scientists and their perspectives. We hold ourselves accountable to shared values with our partners and ask them to hold us accountable as well.

JOINING FORCES FOR SCIENCE ADVOCACY

Achieving systemic and policy changes takes time and people power.

The Science Network can offer you:

- Tools for amplifying and expanding the reach of your organization and its work
- Collaboration on conference workshops or other trainings, both in-person and virtual
- Shared branding on materials and recognition in UCS communications
- Access to other partners’ resources and opportunities to take action
- Connections to other science advocacy and policy groups across the country
- Opportunities for your members to build their science advocacy skills

So that together, we can:

- Mobilize experts to make our voices heard, build collective power, and secure successes on issues we care about
- Offer trainings and tools to support science advocates’ engagement
- Host advocacy actions and events
- Build equitable partnerships between scientists and environmental justice and frontline communities

Interested in exploring a partnership with the UCS Science Network? Reach out to Science Network Community and Partnerships Manager Melissa Varga at mvarga@ucsusa.org.
PARTNERSHIP SUCCESS STORIES

At the Science Network, we’re working not only to keep up the momentum for science advocacy, but also to build broader cultural support for scientist engagement and break down institutional barriers that prevent action.

• Soon after COVID-19 hit the United States, we convened a Twitter chat on scientist engagement during the pandemic. **Seven partner organizations** offered scientists concrete ways to engage in policy and advocacy during the pandemic, highlighted different opportunities and resources from a wide variety of organizations, and demonstrated solidarity and the power of collective action among the scientific community.

• Through **Science Rising**, UCS and our partners mobilized the scientific community to fight for science, equity, and justice by increasing STEM student turnout in the 2020 election. Thanks to the commitment, collaboration, and creativity of our partners, we developed an organized strategy for boosting voter turnout in 2020 while strengthening civic engagement for the future.

• The **Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS)** was our lead organizing partner on the Science Rising Challenge, a range of activities designed to get people more involved in our democracy.

• We continued our collaboration with **Sister**, an independent online media platform amplifying women and nonbinary voices in STEM, for two series of articles that helped us amplify the narrative about the intersection of science, equity, and justice in our democracy. The first series was released around the 50th anniversary of Earth Day and focused on climate justice. The second series asked scientists to answer the question “Why do voting and advocacy still matter?” and featured six articles from a diverse group of women scientists.

• In collaboration with partners, we are using scientific conferences to build a culture of scientist engagement. At the 2020 AAAS Annual Meeting, for example, we hosted a workshop in which our partners **500 Women Scientists, the National Science Policy Network**, and **Science Debate** discussed their plans for engaging scientists around the 2020 elections. We were able to raise awareness about a range of nonpartisan ways to engage and gave participants a chance to talk through barriers to engagement they have encountered.

• When the radio telescope at the Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico collapsed, we listened to our partners **Ciencia Puerto Rico** to see how we could raise awareness about the Rebuild Arecibo campaign. We shared their content on social media and invited one of their members, Hector Arce, to share his story on our blog.

• At the SACNAS National Diversity in STEM conference, we hosted a panel discussion that celebrated the stories of early-career scientists engaging in policy and advocacy through our partner organization the **National Science Policy Network**. Some had also received support through UCS Science Network leadership development programs including the Team-Based Organizing Initiative.

**“OUR PARTNERSHIP HAS BEEN INVALUABLE FOR CONNECTING OUR MEMBERS WITH ADVOCACY OPPORTUNITIES TO BUILD AND APPLY THEIR SCIENCE POLICY SKILLS”**

— NATIONAL SCIENCE POLICY NETWORK LEADERSHIP