



**Office of Science and Technology Policy**  
**Executive Office of the President**  
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Washington, DC 20502

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**PRESIDENT HONORS OUTSTANDING EARLY-CAREER SCIENTISTS**

President Obama today named 100 beginning researchers as recipients of the Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers, the highest honor bestowed by the United States government on young professionals in the early stages of their independent research careers. The recipient scientists and engineers will receive their awards in the Fall at a White House ceremony.

The Presidential Early Career Awards embody the high priority the Administration places on producing outstanding scientists and engineers to advance the nation's goals and contribute to all sectors of the economy. Nine Federal departments and agencies join together annually to nominate the most meritorious young scientists and engineers—researchers whose early accomplishments show the greatest promise for strengthening America's leadership in science and technology and contributing to the awarding agencies' missions.

"These extraordinarily gifted young scientists and engineers represent the best in our country," President Obama said. "With their talent, creativity, and dedication, I am confident that they will lead their fields in new breakthroughs and discoveries and help us use science and technology to lift up our nation and our world."

The awards, established by President Clinton in February 1996, are coordinated by the Office of Science and Technology Policy within the Executive Office of the President. Awardees are selected on the basis of two criteria: Pursuit of innovative research at the frontiers of science and technology and a commitment to community service as demonstrated through scientific leadership, public education, or community outreach. Winning scientists and engineers receive up to a five-year research grant to further their study in support of critical government missions.

The Awards are coordinated by the Office of Science and Technology Policy with the National Science Foundation and other participating Federal agencies and departments.

This year's recipients are:

**Department of Agriculture**

David H. McNear Jr., University of Kentucky  
Dean E. Pearson, Rocky Mt. Res. Station  
Erica Spackman, Poultry Res. Lab/USDA

**Department of Commerce**

Craig Brown, National Institute of Standards and Technology

Michael C. Coniglio, National Severe Storms Laboratory  
Dana H. Hanselman, Auke Bay Laboratory  
Pamela L. Heinselman, National Severe Storms Laboratory  
Dean DeLongchamp, National Institute of Standards and Technology  
Till P. Rosenband, National Institute of Standards and Technology

### **Department of Defense**

David P. Arnold, University of Florida  
Seth R. Bank, University of Texas, Austin  
Christopher W. Bielawski, University of Texas, Austin  
Elizabeth Boon, Stony Brook University  
Markus J. Buehler, Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Scott A. Craver, Binghamton University  
John O. Dabiri, California Institute of Technology  
Chris L. Dwyer, Duke University  
Gregory S. Engel, University of Chicago  
Thomas H. Epps III, University of Delaware  
Gregory A. Fiete, University of Texas, Austin  
Oliver Fringer, Stanford University  
Anthony Grbic, University of Michigan  
Carlos E. Guestrin, Carnegie Mellon University  
Michael A. Hickner, Penn State University  
Michael J. Hochberg, University of Washington  
Yu Huang, University of California, Los Angeles  
Gregory H. Huff, Texas A&M University  
Jacob L. Jones, University of Florida  
Sanjay Kumar, University of California, Berkeley  
Xiaoqin Li, University of Texas, Austin  
Mathew M. Maye, Syracuse University  
Leigh S. McCue-Weil, Virginia Polytechnic University  
Beverley J. McKeon, California Institute of Technology  
Anastasia H. Muliana, Texas A&M University  
Ryan P. O'Hayre, Colorado School of Mines  
Jiwoong Park, Cornell University  
Susan E. Parks, Penn State University  
Jason R. Petta, Princeton University  
Justin K. Romberg, Georgia Institute of Technology  
Adrienne D. Stiff-Roberts, Duke University  
Benjamin R. tenOever, Mt. Sinai School of Medicine  
Joel A. Tropp, California Institute of Technology  
Derek H. Warner, Cornell University  
Sharon M. Weiss, Vanderbilt University  
Patrick J. Wolfe, Harvard University  
Robert J. Wood, Harvard University  
Tanya Zelevinsky, Columbia University  
Jianglong Zhang, University of North Dakota  
Xiaolin Zheng, Stanford University  
Rashid Zia, Brown University

### **Department of Education**

Nonie K. Lesaux, Harvard University  
Katherine A. Rawson, Kent State University

**Department of Energy**

Cecilia R. Aragon, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory  
Gary A. Baker, Oak Ridge National Laboratory  
Joshua A. Breslau, Princeton Plasma Physics  
Gianluigi Ciovati, Thomas Jefferson Lab National Accelerator Facility  
Stefan P. Gerhardt, Princeton Plasma Physics  
Lynford L. Goddard, University of Illinois  
Jason Graetz, Brookhaven National Laboratory  
Jeffrey B. Neaton, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory  
Thao D. Nguyen, Johns Hopkins University  
Paul Sorensen, Brookhaven National Laboratory  
Alexandre M. Tartakovsky, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory  
Ivan Vitev, Los Alamos National Laboratory

**Department of Veterans' Affairs**

Melina R. Kibbe, Jesse Brown VA  
Alexander H. Sox-Harris, Palo Alto VA

**National Aeronautics and Space Administration**

Benjamin E. Smith, University of Washington  
Joshua K. Willis, Jet Propulsion Laboratory

**National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services**

Thomas P. Cappola, University of Pennsylvania  
Pablo A. Celnik, Johns Hopkins University  
Felicia D. Goodrum, University of Arizona  
Bruce J. Hinds III, University of Kentucky  
Helen H. Lu, Columbia University  
Ulrike Peters, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center  
Jeremy F. Reiter, University of California, San Francisco  
Marisa Roberto, The Scripps Research Institute  
Erica O. Saphire, The Scripps Research Institute  
Oscar E. Suman, Shriners' Hospital, University of Texas  
Kristin V. Tarbell, The National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases  
Gonzalo E. Torres, University of Pittsburgh

**National Science Foundation**

Maria M. Calbi, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale  
Amy B. Cerato, University of Oklahoma  
Ioannis Chasiotis, University of Illinois  
Monica F. Cox, Purdue University  
Cameron R. Currie, University of Wisconsin  
Joel L. Dawson, Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Jimmy de la Torre, Rutgers University  
Roland G. Fryer Jr., Harvard University  
Sean Hallgren, Penn State University  
John M. Herbert, Ohio State University  
Steven D. Jacobsen, Northwestern University  
Charles R. Keeton II, Rutgers University  
Chun Ning Lau, University of California, Riverside  
Hao Lin, Rutgers University

Harmit S. Malik, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center  
Rada F. Mihalcea, University of North Texas  
Scott R. Sheffield, Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Zuzanna S. Siwy, University of California, Irvine  
Adam D. Smith, Penn State University  
Joy K. Ward, University of Kansas

**Note to regional reporters:** For more information about, or interviews with, local winners of the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, please contact the awardees' home institution or agency.

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- Lead interagency efforts to develop and implement sound science and technology policies and budgets
- Work with the private sector to ensure that federal investments in science and technology contribute to economic prosperity, environmental quality, and national security
- Build strong partnerships among the federal government; state and local governments; other countries; and the scientific community
- Evaluate the scale, quality, and effectiveness of the federal effort in science and technology.

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