

# Bringing Physicists to The Hill

**Riley Troyer**

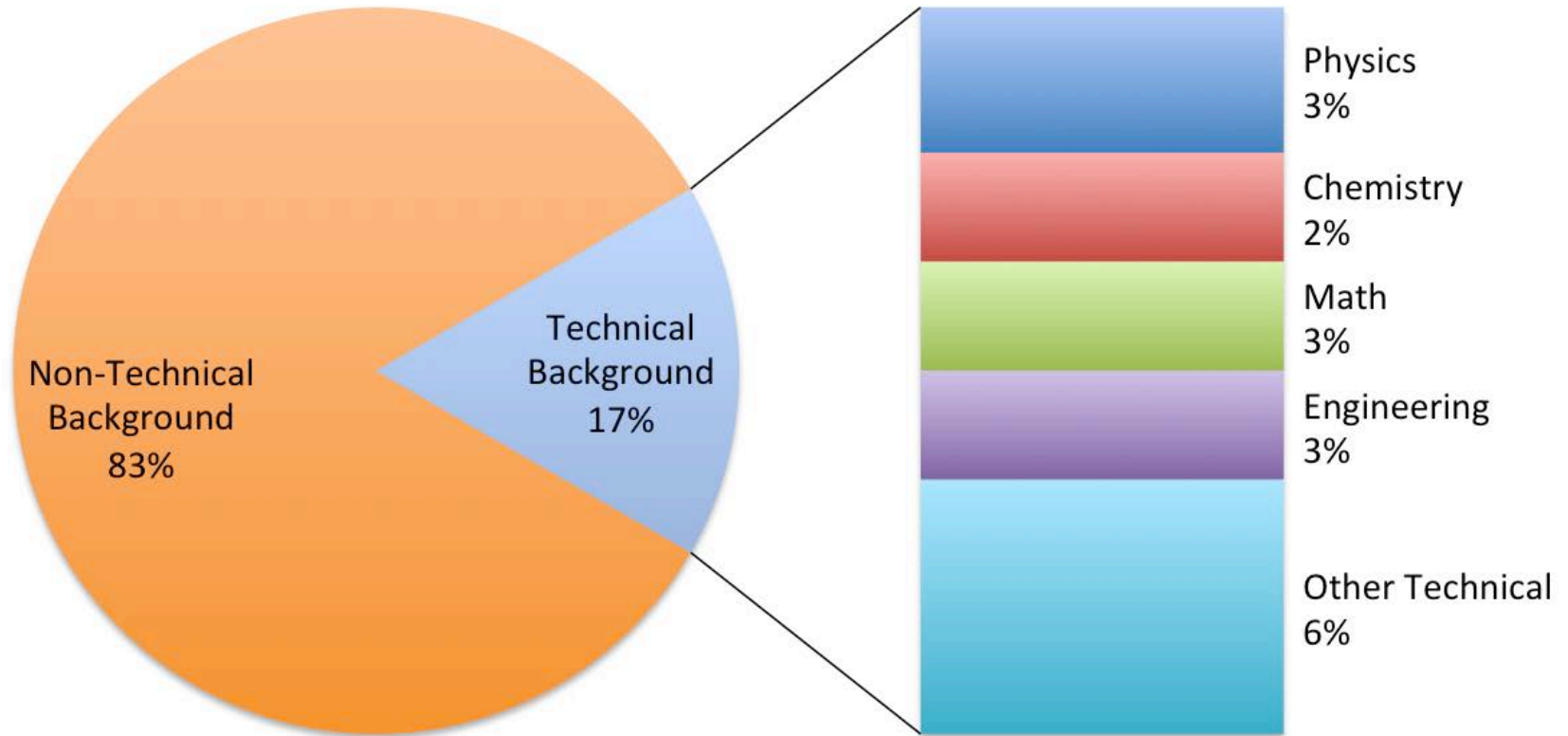
**University of Alaska Fairbanks**

**Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources**

**August 4, 2017**



# Education of Congressional Staffers

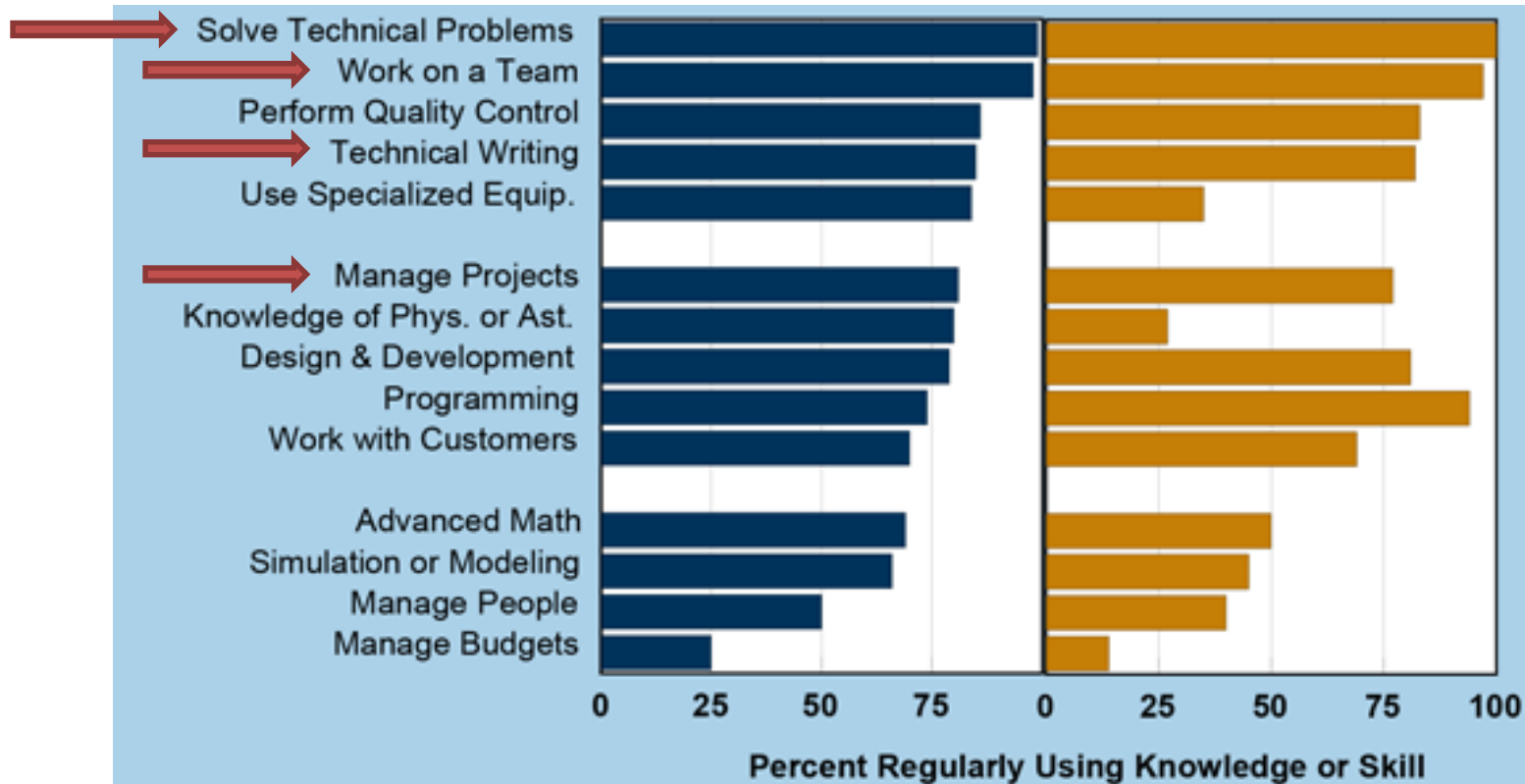


Data gathered from [www.legistorm.com](http://www.legistorm.com)

# Physics Student → Hill Staffer

- Physics undergraduates can excel in congressional offices
- Invest in policy internships for undergraduates
- Benefits for the field of physics

# Portrait of a Physics Student



# Working for the Senate

- Compiled data
- Spreadsheets
- Researched/assessed sources
- Wrote technical documents
- Communicated technical details

UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

## Energy Storage Systems

Historical and Current Outlooks

Prepared by Riley Troyer  
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# Investing in Interns

- Policy option unknown (students, professors)
- Not a common path
- Lots of internships
- Most are unpaid
- It starts as an intern



Eddie Bernice Johnson via Facebook

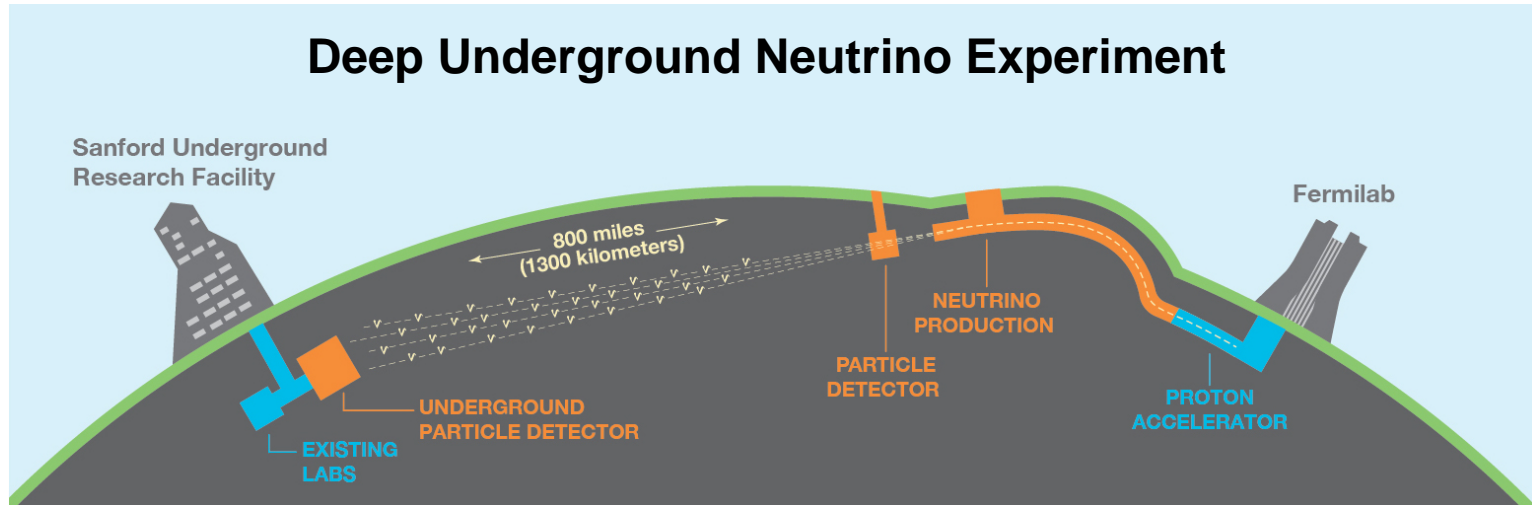
# Physicists in all Positions

- Time is the key to promotion
- Policy advisors, staff assistants, staff directors, etc.
- Ph.D. not necessary



# How Physics will Benefit

- Staff have power (statements, questions, policy)
- Physics trained staff will help raise awareness of the field
- Members of Congress interact with staff





# A Call to Action

- AIP Mather Internship success
- Congress needs more scientifically trained staffers
- Physics students can fill the role
- Paid internships can lead to this
- Benefits for the field of physics



Dr. Mather with myself and Eleanor Hook

# Acknowledgements

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# Questions

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