



SCHOLARS
STRATEGY NETWORK

WHAT IS THE SCHOLARS STRATEGY NETWORK?

Bridging the Gap Between Research and Policy

America faces many pressing public challenges. Sound policies informed by research and evidence are needed to meet those challenges.

The Scholars Strategy Network (SSN) was created by researchers, for researchers. The network connects university-based scholars from across the country with journalists, civic leaders, and policymakers to improve policy and strengthen democracy.

Since 2011, over 2,000 scholars have joined the network in more than 450 universities located in 48 states. There are 36 active SSN chapters across the country—with more on the way—where public engagement-minded researchers connect across disciplines and issues to build relationships with key policy actors and organizations.

Benefits of SSN Membership

Writing and outreach support

Members receive free, hands-on editing and/or pitching support to produce policy documents and popular media pieces that use clear, everyday language to explain research findings or summarize knowledge from their fields. National staff help create and execute dissemination plans so that members' ideas reach intended audiences.

One-on-one or group coaching and strategic support

Whether members need general public engagement advice, tailored support for increasing the impact of their media or policy writing and outreach, or help preparing for a meeting with a policy stakeholder or journalist, experienced SSN staff provide no-cost counsel that accounts for busy researchers' scheduling and capacity concerns.

Connections with key decision-makers

National staff help members identify and conduct outreach to policy actors and civic leaders who hold the power to incorporate research evidence into policymaking and public debate. Policymakers, civic leaders, and journalists who recognize SSN as a trusted source request support from researchers through the national organization or specific chapters, where we match requests with members' expertise and promote opportunities through our deep-reaching network channels.

Skillbuilding in community

SSN national and chapters host free events and workshops where members build public-engagement skills like OpEd writing or navigating state legislative sessions, all while networking with their peers and invited policy actors, practitioners, and community members.

SSN Members in Media

Our members' OpEds and contributions to reporting have been featured in *The New York Times*, *USA Today*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *CNN*, and dozens of local papers and other sites. Outlets such as the *Bangor Daily News* and *The Connecticut Mirror* partner with chapters to regularly publish member-authored columns.



Members in Policy

Member- and chapter-led projects like Connecticut SSN's Moving Beyond Implications: Research into Policy conference or South Carolina SSN's State Capitol visit provide platforms for researchers to educate and build relationships with evidence-forward policymakers. Members' research and expertise has informed policymaking on diverse issues including the opioid epidemic, nutrition assistance, state fine and fee collection, election administration and more.



Connecticut SSN Chapter Leader Kerri Raissian speaking at the Moving Beyond Implications Conference in 2025



South Carolina SSN members at the South Carolina State House in 2024

How to Join

Scholars join the network by submitting a simple, easy-to-fill-out Academic & Civic Profile Form and drafting a research-based resource in everyday language. To learn more about SSN, visit www.scholars.org. For questions or to learn more about membership, please email Mandana Mohsenzadegan, Director of Member Engagement, at mandana@scholars.org.