The Aspen Tech Policy Hub: 5 Years of Impact

Over the last 5 years, the Aspen Tech Policy Hub has trained more than 550 science and technology experts on how to impact policy. We have seen more than 100 alumni transition into the public sector, and have celebrated our alumni directly influencing policy more than 40 times. As we grow and expand our impact as the newly launched Aspen Policy Academy – equipping a broader array of science, technology, environmental, and nonprofit leaders with policy skills – we reflect on the ways our staff and alumni have tackled society's most pressing challenges since our founding.

We seek three types of impact from our work:
- Guiding our alumni's careers toward policy work,
- Improving policy outcomes, and
- Making better resources for policy training available.

Read on for some highlights of the impact we've had since 2019.

Learn more about our work on our new website: aspenpolicyacademy.org.

"The Hub training was incredibly valuable. While I had many tools in my skill set, the program showed me how to use them for maximum impact."

JOSH RICHARDS, VICE PRESIDENT, NORTH AMERICA AT PACIFIC PEERING

ASPEN POLICY ACADEMY
aspen institute

People Impact

After completing our programs, more than 100 of our alumni have taken on roles in government, using their Hub training to tackle society's most pressing challenges. We are proud to share just some examples of the roles our alumni have obtained:

Bindu Gakhar, Special Assistant to the President for Chief Enterprise Applications, The White House

Vanessa Kaskiris, Chief Technology Officer, City of Boston

Ivy Teng Lei, Chief Digital Strategy Officer, State of California

Lana Ramjit, Project Manager, National Resource Center for Cybercrimes, AEquitas

Nancy Mandujano, Founder, Abobo Technologies

Mukunda Penugonde, Deputy Director, Technology Transformation Services, US General Services Administration

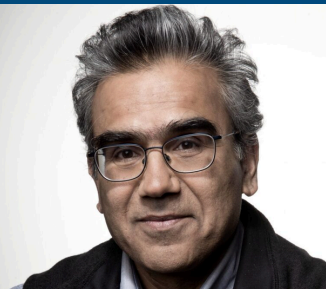**Kesone Phimmasone**, Chief Digital Strategy Officer, City of New York

Parimala Rao, Deputy Chief Information Security Officer, US General Services Administration

Daniel Bardenstein, Tech and Strategy Implementation Lead, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency

Alex Bores, Elected Representative, District 73, New York State Assembly

Rohit Chandra, Chief Technology Officer, Cleveland Clinic

Lisa Einstein, Executive Director, Cybersecurity Advisory Committee, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency

Marcela Alava, Deputy Director of Technology, the White House

Anil Dewan, Senior Advisor to the Chief Information Officer, US Department of Homeland Security

Alex Rosenblat, Head of Marketplace Policy, Fairness, and Research, Uber

Matt Sievers, Cybersecurity Policy Advisor, US Department of Defense

Madison Jacobs, Senior Communications Manager, Public Rights Project

Neal Parikh, Director of Artificial Intelligence, City of New York

Alexander Romero, Civilian Cybersecurity Consultant, US Department of Defense

Raylene Yung, Founding CEO, US Digital Response

Policy Impact

Seeing our alumni put their policy skills into practice – and actually affecting change – proves that our programs are valuable and effective. Since 2019, our alumni have helped shape scores of policies. Here are just a few of their stories:

Advancing Cybersecurity On a National Level
Anil Dewan and Alexander "RoRo" Romero successfully expanded the scope of the Department of Defense's Vulnerability Disclosure Program, which provides safe harbor to ethical hackers who discover and report vulnerabilities in government systems. Read more.

Helping Older Adults Report Cybersecurity Crimes
Ginny Fahs and a group of fellow alumni teamed up with the Cybercrime Support Network to help create an easy-to-use system to report online fraud and cybercrime directly to appropriate law enforcement agencies. Read more.

A Leg Up In Climate Policy Work
Emily Doyle has utilized her Climate Policy Fellowship experience in her job at the California State Parks Foundation and in a report on building climate resilience in California state parks. That report contributed to a parks bill that passed the California Assembly in 2024. Read more.

Collaborating to Impact Public Interest Tech
Jessica Cole collaborated with fellow Hub alumni to found the U.S. Digital Response, which enables the government to harness public interest tech expertise at scale. Jessica also served as the Hub's Interim Director in 2023 and 2024. Read more.

You can read more about these and other instances of alumni policy impact at aspenpolicyacademy.org/case-studies.

"The training I received at the Tech Policy Hub confirmed a long-held desire to take an active role in government and provided the real world information and connections required to transform that desire into action."

MEGHAN COCHRAN, DIRECTOR, DIGITAL CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE AT THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Policy Resources

In an effort to expand our impact beyond our programs, our team has put together a growing collection of free policy training resources – tools, guides, white papers, and more – for the public. Some examples include:

Introductory Policy Guides

Our Policy 101 series offers basic overviews of key tech policy issues of the day, written by Academy staff, alums, and friends. Topics include data privacy, antitrust, artificial intelligence, and combatting mis- and disinformation. See more.

Expert Recommendations On Pressing Topics

In these resources, leaders from government, academia, the private sector, and civil society propose policy actions and offer practical tools for addressing critical challenges. See more.

> **Explore all of our free policy resources at aspenpolicyacademy.org/resources.**

Five Years of Impact

Building on these successes, we are excited to head into our next 5 years of impact as the Aspen Policy Academy. And we've hit the ground running.

After we launched 11 new programs in the fall, we saw almost 2,000 people apply to participate in them in just 3 months. We look forward to broadening our impact and welcoming more new voices to the policy space!

> "The Tech Policy Hub Fellowship transformed how I think about policy and even the trajectory of my own career."
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> NIDHI HEBBAR, GROUP PRODUCT MANAGER (INFORMATION LITERACY) AT GOOGLE