

**California Science and Technology Policy Fellows  
Remarks at the Introduction of the Inaugural Class of Fellows  
February 3, 2010**

**Bruce B. Darling  
Chair, Fellows Oversight Committee  
California Council on Science and Technology**

Thank you Mim.

California is the nation's preeminent science and technology state.

California is home to the largest number of scientists and engineers in the United States. It is home to leading international companies in industries like computers, software, semiconductors, biotechnology and biomedical devices, and wireless communications. It is home to some of the nation's leading universities and national laboratories.

And, it receives more federal research funding and venture capital funding than any other state.

The California Science and Technology Policy Fellowships Program is a new program that draws on these science and technology resources by placing scientists and engineers in the State Legislature for one-year fellowships where they will work hand-in-hand with Legislators and Legislative Staff. Remarkably, it is the first such program in any state legislature in the nation. The program enables

fellows to work with policy-makers to develop solutions to complex scientific and technical issues facing California through active participation in the legislative process.

The ten Fellows in CCST's inaugural class were selected from a very competitive group of applicants from across the United States. Each fellow brings exceptional scientific expertise and a passion for working at the interface of science and policy. Their disciplines range from air quality to community health and from energy to natural resources.

Their Fellowships began in November 2009 with a three-week orientation led by Thad Koussar, professor of political science at UC San Diego, and with extensive involvement from experienced Legislators and staff. We would like to thank those of you here tonight who participated in the Fellows' orientation. Your involvement made it a valuable and memorable experience.

We are now in the last weeks of recruiting the second class of Fellows. Please speak to one of the CCST staff if you are interested

in learning more about the program. We welcome your help in getting the word out about the program to prospective Fellows.

Through the generous support of the donors who have funded the Fellowships, together with the leadership of the State Senate and Assembly, this program has great promise. It will introduce new scientific and engineering expertise to complement the State Legislature's existing policy-making experience. We look forward to working with the Legislature to ensure that this program, and the Fellows it supports, add great value in addressing the many complex challenges facing California.