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STEMxPolicy: An approach to empowering STEM students to become leaders in policymaking

Anumita Jain

University of Windsor, jain62@uwindsor.ca

McKenzie Rae Buchanan

University of Windsor, buchana7@uwindsor.ca

Sarah Khan

University of Windsor, khan78@uwindsor.ca

Lana Yacoub

University of Windsor, yacoub1@uwindsor.ca

Aaryan Patel

University of Windsor, patel4x1@uwindsor.ca

See next page for additional authors

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Submitter and Co-author information

Anumita Jain, McKenzie Rae Buchanan, Sarah Khan, Lana Yacoub, Aaryan Patel, Deya'a Almasri, Nikko Drkulec, and Dora Cavallo-Medved



ENGAGE EDUCATE EMPOWER

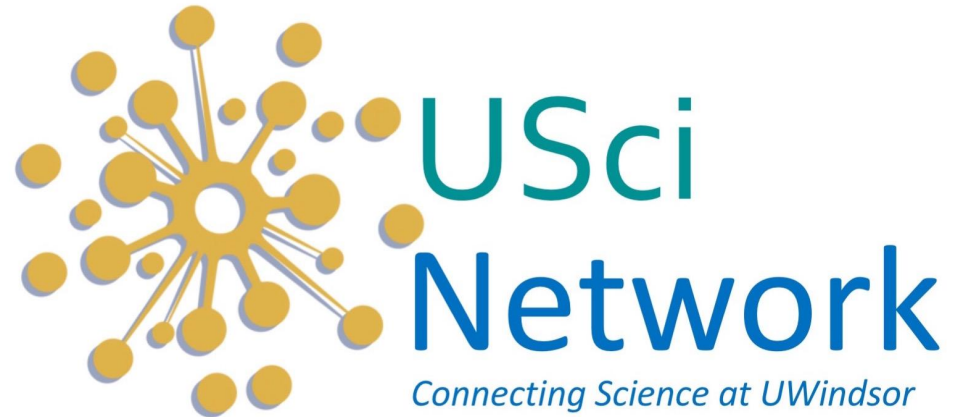
STEM x POLICY

EST. 2021

STEMxPolicy: An approach to
empowering STEM students to become
leaders in policymaking

Overview of STEMxPolicy

- Key Gaps:
 - 1–2-decade gap in knowledge translation
 - Late awareness about the need for policy to track research
- Student-led Organization in the Faculty of Science
- Newest Branch of the USci Network
- Target audience: All STEM students



Three Pillars



- **Educate**
 - Students develop a strong understanding of science policy including but not limited to how policy is created, the long-term impact of policy, ethical & inclusive policy, current policy 'hot-topics', and how they can get involved in policymaking.
- **Engage**
 - Form connections with community partners and/or provincial/federal organizations. Involve university students from across Ontario
- **Empower**
 - Students will feel comfortable getting involved in policymaking processes

Events

Snapshot Seminars:



ENVIRONMENTxPolicy Seminar:

Engaged students in the current gaps, key considerations, and major stakeholders for policies related to climate change and the conservation of endangered species.

RESEARCHxPolicy Seminar:

Targeted to STEM students interested in pursuing research at the University of Windsor

Provided students with the key considerations regarding research policy at the undergraduate level

HealthcarexPolicy Seminar:



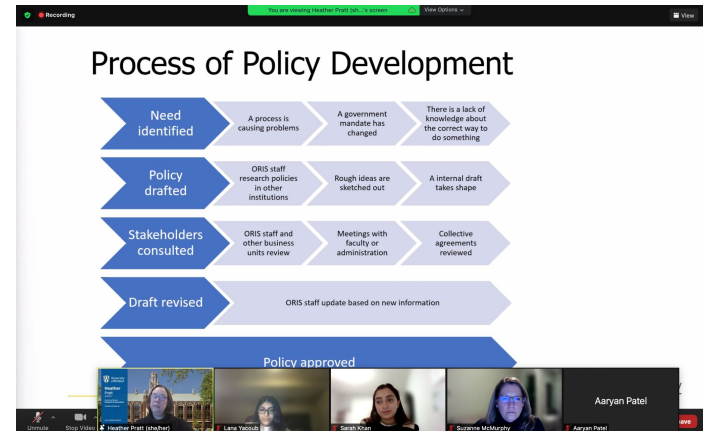
Our healthcare policy seminar gave students a glimpse of the current gaps, key considerations, major stakeholders, and the creation of health policy at a provincial level.

COVID-19 Panel:

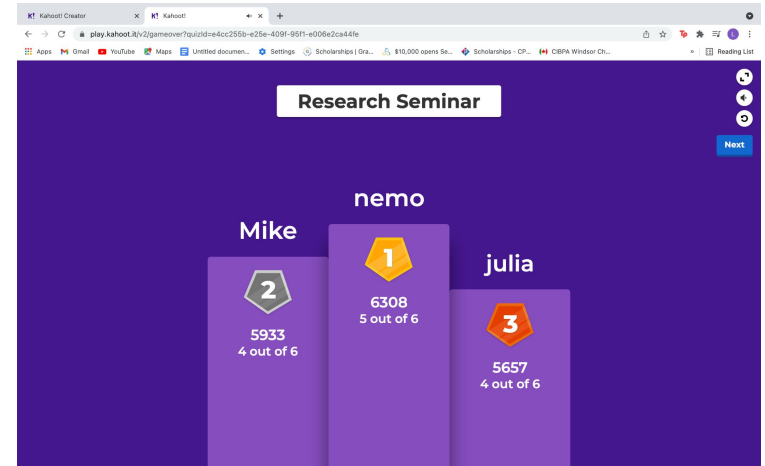
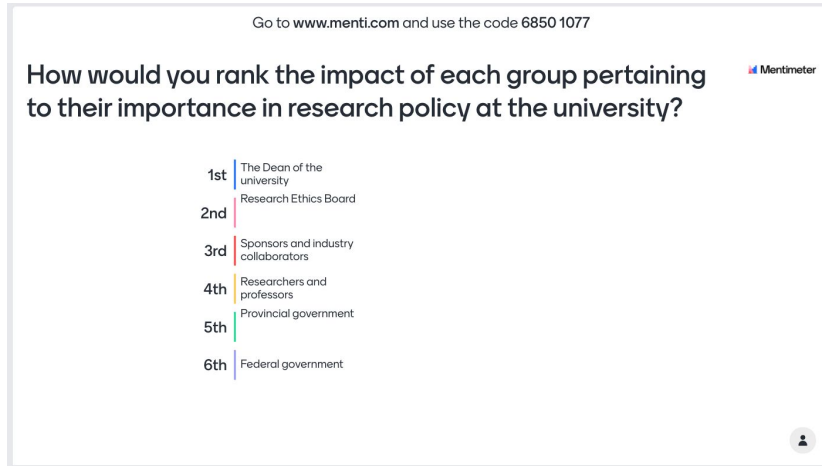
Exposed STEM students to COVID-19 vaccine distribution policies from multiple perspectives.

Career Panel:

Introduced students to non-traditional careers in STEM, and the various ways policy work can be incorporated into their future careers.



Engagement in online events



- A major challenge with online events is engaging the audience
- We have tackled this challenge by incorporating activities such as Mentimeters, Kahoots, and Q&A sessions held in breakout rooms in order to increase engagement and provide the audience an opportunity to network and connect with speakers

Social Media:

- Our social media account has reached over 15,000 people across 5 countries
- Hot-Topic Posts:
 - Updates posted on our Instagram explaining the facts that STEM students should know about current events
 - Ex. Our Hot-Topic post on the COVID-19 Vaccine
- Vlogs:
 - 5-minute interviews with experts such as Eric Nadalin, Dr. Ziad Kobti, Dr. Lisa Porter
 - Over 500+ views
 - 30+ shares



OUR IMPACT

3 Seminars

2 Panels

3 Vlogs

Reached
15,000+
people across
5 countries*

250+
event
attendees

13 experts
engaged
13 universities
reached



*Aggregate impressions on Instagram posts

Future Directions:



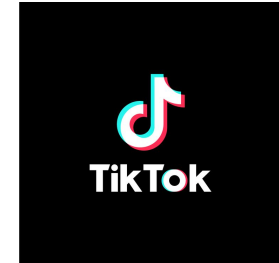
Expansion:

- We currently have a team of 12 individuals who are highly engaged in this project
- In preparation for our upcoming projects we will be expanding to a team of ~20



Future projects:

- TikToks & Reels
- LinkedIn
 - Working on establishing a presence on LinkedIn in order to better connect with experts and students across Ontario
- Policython
 - A case competition event which will further educate, engage, and empower students to become involved in STEM related policy making
- Course development
 - Developing modules that educate students on a deeper level about the intricacies and consequences of limiting the role of scientists in Policy-Making



THANK YOU

