

# CAPSULE

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## STATE SCIENTIST DAY RETURNS TO THE CAPITOL



Hundreds of kids descended on the West Steps of the State Capitol on May 3 to help celebrate State Scientist Day. About 1,000 kids spent the day learning about how State Scientists serve Californians every day using their education, experience, and dedication to protect public health, the environment, the food supply and California's natural resources.

Assembly Concurrent Resolution 73, authored by Assemblymember Dr. Jasmeet Bains, declared May 3 "State Scientist Day" for the thousands of CAPS members who "perform important work in the areas of infectious disease prevention, oil spill prevention and cleanup, public health drinking water monitoring, the protection of agricultural crops, brownfields mitigation, chemical and radiological disaster response, and much more." CAPS also named Dr. Bains the Honorary State Scientist for 2023.





## SUPPORT YOUR BARGAINING TEAM - ROCK YOUR CAPS T-SHIRT!

Your CAPS Bargaining Team (CAPS Team) is in an intense stretch of talks with the Department of Human Resources (State's Team), which represents the Governor, as we work to reach a replacement Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The CAPS Team has been meeting either with the State's Team or internally on Tuesdays. Here's how you can show your support:

### **Wear your CAPS T-shirt.**

Need a new shirt? Order one online at [capsscientists.org/caps-t-shirts/](https://capsscientists.org/caps-t-shirts/).

### **Display a CAPS virtual background during virtual meetings.**

Find them at [capsscientists.org/caps-video-backgrounds/](https://capsscientists.org/caps-video-backgrounds/).

### **Take a picture rocking your CAPS green**

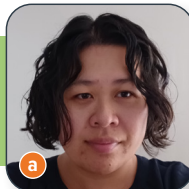
with you and your colleagues and tag CAPS on social media using our Instagram and Twitter handle: @capsscientists.

### **Email your photos**

to [caps@capsscientists.org](mailto:caps@capsscientists.org) to be featured on CAPS' social media.

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Four times each year, CAPS' Member Benefits Committee awards up to four Professional Development Grants of \$500 to support members' scientific research and professional development activities that the State does not fully fund. The Committee recently awarded 1st quarter 2023 grants to these four deserving CAPS members:



**a. Kelly Chen**, a Research Scientist III for the Department of Public Health in Richmond, to pay for training to use an instrument that analyzes metals in the air, which is the focus of their research. They wrote in response, "Due to the retirement of the previous staff member (who knew how to operate the instrument), I have been relying on (the manufacturer's) training materials ...".



**b. Kelly McFadden**, a Parks and Recreation Environmental Scientist in San Simeon, is using the grant to attend a prescribed fire training in Banff National Park. The training, she noted, "focuses on empowering women."



**c. Hannah Johnson**, a Research Scientist at Public Health's Office of AIDs, is paying part of the cost for an Open Campus course on Racial Health Disparities through UC Davis "to strengthen my theoretical knowledge of racial health disparities in the US and apply it directly to my work at the State."



**d. Michael Walgren**, a Sr. Environmental Scientist (Specialist) in Parks and Recreation's San Simeon office, is using his grant to pay for fire boots. "The uniform allowance is \$270 every two years, but good boots cost roughly \$700," he wrote in his application.

Grant recipients are chosen in January, April, July, and October, so applications should be submitted before those months to be eligible for the subsequent selection. Once submitted, applications remain eligible for consideration for two quarters. For more details about CAPS' Professional Development Grants and how to apply for this members-only benefit, please go to [capsscientists.org/application/benefits/grant](https://capsscientists.org/application/benefits/grant).



## CAPS HEADQUARTERS MOVES

The CAPS Sacramento offices have moved to 555 Capitol Mall, Suite 1155. The new location is just one block east of our former offices, while phone numbers, email addresses, and staff all remain the same. Of course, the outstanding representation that CAPS members enjoy also remains unchanged as CAPS looks forward to continuing to serve you and more than 3,400 of your colleagues who are members in the only authorized union representing California State Scientists!



## THE STATE BUDGET AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOU

On May 12, Governor Newsom issued a revised \$306 billion State Budget proposal for the upcoming fiscal year, which starts July 1. The budget shortfall has grown some \$9 billion since his initial January plan, and it is now projected to be a \$31.5 billion deficit that must be addressed in 2023-24.

Still, the governor's economic forecast notes that despite the potential for a larger economic downturn, "the U.S. and California economies have seen continued deceleration of inflation and steady, though slowing, job growth within a tight labor market."

Two days later, the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO), which advises the Senate and Assembly on the state's finances – and tends to be very pessimistic – said the national and state economic picture is "muddy" and estimated California revenues "are \$11 billion lower than the administration's May Revision estimates." Still, the LAO lacked confidence in its forecast and admitted, "revenues could end up considerably higher or lower than our estimates."

There is one bit of good news: Governor Newsom's plan doesn't propose furloughs or other cuts to employee compensation that have been deployed during previous economic downturns (or slumps that didn't materialize, such as the COVID-19 scare in the first half of 2020).

However, the downturn in revenues and the uncertain economy will make bargaining salary equity for State Scientists more challenging. In bad times, the government's bargaining representatives have said, there's no money. In good times they have told us, bad times are coming. According to them, there's never a good time to address our pay issue.

The budget environment and politics will test our solidarity. I urge you to support the CAPS Bargaining Team during these next crucial months of bargaining. On Page 2 of this newsletter, there's a list of individual actions you can take right now to show solidarity. Over the coming weeks, look for emails, social media posts, and CAPSule articles about other actions and events intended to let the Administration, our allies, and the public know where we stand. Please participate. We're stronger when we act together.

And finally, this moment highlights the importance of adding new members. As you connect with colleagues, encourage those who aren't members to join us. Our collective power, especially now, depends on robust strength in numbers that can only be built one person, one commitment at a time.

**Choose Unity. Choose Strength. Choose CAPS!**



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## CAPS DEPENDENT SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE IS ALMOST HERE! APPLY NOW!

Each year, CAPS awards \$750 scholarships to dependents of CAPS members in support of their college education. This year, up to 20 scholarships are available for a child or other dependent family member in college or bound for college in the Fall.

Qualified applicants must be dependents of a CAPS member in good standing. They must be enrolled in an accredited university or community college (but not a vocational school) for the coming fall semester and complete a CAPS Scholarship Application.

All applications must be submitted by June 1 each

year. The CAPS Member Benefits Committee reviews the applications and selects the scholarship winners. Unfunded submissions with stated graduation years from 2024 and beyond remain eligible for consideration. The number of scholarship awards per year is based on the number of applicants and availability of funds.

No family may receive more than one CAPS scholarship per lifetime. This benefit is available only to dependents of CAPS members. The link to a secure online application is available at [capsscscientists.org/members/caps-dependent-scholarships](https://capsscscientists.org/members/caps-dependent-scholarships).

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