

USC NPAW 2018

## Components of a Successful Postdoc



**with Dr. Adriana Bankston**

Postdoctoral researchers are critical to the future of science. Fair pay, opportunities for meaningful leadership positions, and access to positive mentoring are critical factors of a successful postdoc experience. These factors are also likely to influence the decisions of postdocs on which institutions they will choose for conducting independent research, as well as whether to remain in academe or pursue other career paths. Fair pay is critical for postdocs, who are often viewed as “cheap labor” in the system, and are undervalued and undertrained for being successful in society. To date, we have tracked how institutions responded to a federal mandate to raise postdoc salaries nationally, which influenced institutional decisions and changed the conversation on this topic in academe. In addition to advocating for fair pay, we aim to place Early Career Researchers (ECRs) into meaningful leadership positions within scientific societies - and ultimately expand to other entities - in order to help these organizations develop forward-looking policies and practices to keep up with changes in the system, and to serve the interests of their ECR membership. Finally, we want to ensure that ECRs - most of whom are trained using taxpayer money - are receiving adequate training and mentoring in academe, enabling them to provide a good return on society’s investment through a variety of careers. Ultimately, we envision a research enterprise that maximizes the human component of science, and seek to bring about such a system through our efforts as an independent non-profit organization.

**Monday, September 17, 2018**

**9:00 am - 10:30 am at Waite Philips Hall (WPH) 207, 2nd floor**

**Please RSVP by emailing [uscnda@usc.edu](mailto:uscnda@usc.edu)**

<https://postdocs.usc.edu/postdoc-life/npaw-2015/>