

# IEEE R2 Tech Policy

## April 18, 2009



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Larry Stern



# R2 Multi State S-PAC

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- A PROPOSAL TO ENGAGE STUDENT MEMBERS OF THE REGION INTO A TECH POLICY DIALOG
  - Direct coaching and exposure to the political process
  - Congressional exposure and support
  - IEEE USA staff available : Russ Harrison  
<http://www.ieeeusa.org/volunteers/committees/SPAC/profiles/harrison.htm>)
- interactive hands-on format (see notes page)
  - Student member interest survey
  - Initiated with Murty Polavrapu/ Kristi Hummel/ Li Bai/ Joe Burns/
  - Opinions, advice and support are solicited

# R2 TECH POLICY INFORMATION

Speakers available for Section meetings



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I will act as clearinghouse for tech policy speakers in the region



# R & D POLICY REPORT

12 March 2009

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- Letter on National Nanotechnology Initiative Amendments
- SBIR Reauthorization letter – discussion
- OTA Reauthorization letter –
- Proposed position statements
  - a) Applied research
  - b) SBIR
- Effects of Continuing Resolutions on Science and Technology – passed unanimously

# REFUGEE REPORT

Baltimore Dec15 2008



- Mingle with your counterparts from all over the world and discover new opportunities.

## **Details:**

**Date:** Monday, December 15, 2008

**Time:** 5:30 – 8:00pm

**Location:** Enoch Pratt Southeast Anchor Library in Highlandtown

**Address:** 3601 Eastern Ave., Baltimore, MD 21224

**Hors d'oeuvres will be served during the reception, starting at 5:30.**

Please RSVP to Jonathan Lucus by December 5 at [information@refugeeworks.org](mailto:information@refugeeworks.org) or (410) 230-2886.

# REFUGEE WORKS

THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR REFUGEE EMPLOYMENT AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY



**US citizens or permanent residents.  
Juniors/ seniors/ grads in engineering or computer science  
Grads must be entering tech policy related Masters  
program**

- Erica Wissolik IEEE-USA Program coordinator
- AAES Umbrella Program - IEEE 3 annually
- Criteria:
- **Weighting (not in order):**
  - demonstrated interest in learning the policy process
  - grades,
  - writing ability
  - service to IEEE
- Phone: 202.785.0017, web: <http://www.wise-intern.org>
- See coming R2 multi-state S-PAC



Interns participate in weekly group meetings with individuals from Congress, the Executive Branch and government relations professionals from the business/ association

community in Washington, who will brief them on their respective roles in the public policy process. There will also be group meetings to discuss what the interns have learned and to review their progress. There will also be several scheduled social events.

A final paper is required

## KEY DATES

**31 Dec. 2008**

Application Deadline  
**8 June - 7 August 2009**

Summer 2009 Program Dates

# IEEE Public Policy Priority Issues

111th Congress, 1st Session (2009)

<http://www.ieeeusa.org/policy/issues/index.html>

- **INNOVATION & COMPETITIVENESS** - implementation of innovation-related legislation and the associated R&D budget appropriations needed to sustain U.S. technological leadership, promote economic competitiveness and create high-value advanced research and engineering jobs in the U.S.
- **ENERGY** – policies that result in the development of new energy sources and the reduction of U.S. dependence on oil in an environmentally sound way.
- **BROADBAND NETWORKS** - provide nationwide and ubiquitous access to affordable high-speed broadband data services and to stimulate innovation, spur economic activity, increase national security and contribute to increased productivity for the nation.
- **IMMIGRATION** – IEEE-USA will support public policies to ensure greater equity in the recruitment, utilization and compensation of US and foreign-born high tech workers.
- **PATENT REFORM** – promote patent reforms that are equitable and serve the entire cross-section of IEEE-USA membership, including fledgling companies (and solo inventors), university faculty, as well as Fortune 500 companies.





# IEEE Public Policy Priority Issues

111th Congress, 1st Session (2009) continued

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- **ENGINEERING WORKFORCE SECURITY** – foster continuing education and retraining of the engineering workforce; to improve the accessibility and affordability of high quality health insurance; expand tax-favored opportunities to save for retirement.
- **E-HEALTH** - improve the quality, availability and affordability of healthcare through greater adoption of information technology, including the establishment of a National Health Information Network
- **CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION** – reduce the vulnerability of critical U.S. infrastructures to terrorist attacks and other natural disasters.

Seeking comment on proposed initiatives :



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(1)-(4)



# (1) Section 1706 of the 1986 Tax Reform Act

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## TREATMENT OF CERTAIN TECHNICAL PERSONNEL.

(<http://www.synergistech.com/ic-taxlaw.shtml>)

EXCEPTION: "This section shall not apply in the case of an individual who pursuant to an arrangement between the taxpayer and another person, provides services for such other person as an engineer, designer, drafter, computer programmer, systems analyst, or other similarly skilled worker engaged in a similar line of work."

### Ease consulting rules for engineers and computer scientists

- Offer support for a "20 questions" relationship
- Pursue changing the law to exempt members of ACM/IEEE etc.
  - legislation to create a legal presumption that qualified members of a qualified "association\*" are outside the exemption
- (see notes pages)



## (1) Section 1706 of the 1986 Tax Reform Act

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- See notes



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- See notes



## (2) Health Insurance

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Propose legislative changes requiring entities receiving federal contracts to provide for portable health care plans for their employees.

Association (such as IEEE) could be the holders of such portable benefits. Employees of aerospace/ health /fed contractors would qualify.

### Advantages:

- This would create a sufficiently large and diverse pool to make IEEE health insurance feasible.
- It would make small (engineering) company health insurance affordable
- It would make employees independent of their employers for health insurance



# Other R2 Proposals (2)

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## Energy Efficiency Research

- There are significant possible energy efficiencies and an increasing number of unemployed engineers. Create a requirement to apply federal R&D funding use the unemployed engineers

## Transitions

- Create an IEEE-USA bridge to other national professional activities boards. Create an initiative within IEEE to ease transition of members from one region to another. Offer the “unemployed class” membership to qualified members transitioning borders. Support transcript and academic evaluation of members.