AAA Appoints New Director Communications and Public Affairs: Rachael Bishop

The American Anthropological Association (AAA) has appointed D. Rachael Bishop as the Association’s new director, communications and public affairs. Bishop will be responsible for directing the Association’s government relations, media outreach and public education programs.

“I am delighted to appoint Rachael Bishop to this post,” said AAA Executive Director Ed Liebow. “She has worked in Washington at the intersection of science advocacy and communications touching innumerable issues of paramount importance to AAA and to science more broadly. She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience, and we look forward to the new value she will create for our team and for anthropology as we face global challenges that require collaborative solutions.”

Bishop is a career science communications and public affairs professional with more than 25 years of experience, having worked in all aspects of the industry including academic centers, publishing, scientific societies and foundations, journalism and human health organizations.

For the last five years, she has worked for the American Chemical Society, based in Washington, D.C. As Manager for Public Policy Communications, she promoted science policy, secured media coverage of scientists and key research, led media training, and created online and print public education tools. She also served on multiple science-based coalitions, including the Task Force on American Innovation, and provided strategic policy advice on U.S. and international science issues. She managed an experts program of 40 scientists, creating media opportunities for them nationwide.

Bishop’s articles and opinion pieces, some of which have dealt with federal science funding, climate change, energy innovation, human health and the environment, have been published in The Economist, The Hill, The Atlantic and numerous other outlets.

For the past six years, Bishop has designed and taught writing and literature courses for the University of Virginia.

She holds a B.A. in history from the University California Davis, class of 1985. She earned her M.F.A. in writing from Hamline University, St. Paul, Minnesota, where she was awarded the first Jane Resh Thomas Prize for Critical Scholarship, class of 2008.

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