



**SCHOLARS**  
STRATEGY NETWORK

## Include Public Outreach Plans in Grant Requirements

**Alexander Woodruff**, Boston University

**Matthew Charles Woodruff**, Emory University

The COVID-19 pandemic has laid bare the vast divide that separates public opinion and policy from the advice of the scientific community. This isn't surprising—debates around **climate change** and **gun control** and even **direct polling data** repeatedly tell us that a significant number of Americans don't believe that scientists' voices belong in policy making. Unfortunately, we cannot control the very real psychological, societal, and political roadblocks that stand between us and public trust. We can, however, control our voices. In 2012, the United States employed more than **a million** full time-equivalent researchers. We are well educated, reasonably well compensated, technologically savvy, and well positioned to be a force both nationally and locally in the development of evidence-based policy.