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Dr. Karen Paczkowski is an AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow in the Division of Computer and Network Systems in NSF's Directorate for Computer and Information Science and Engineering. She contributes to the Cyber-Physical Systems Program on projects that integrate computing with the physical world, including Foundation-wide initiatives such as Smart & Connected Communities and Innovations at the Nexus of Food, Energy, and Water Systems.

Karen holds a Ph.D. in Geology & Geophysics and M.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Yale University, and a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Boston University. She has worked in industry, academia, and nonprofits on topics that span science, engineering, and policy. She has conducted research on blood flow, mantle convection, and earthquake dynamics, designed airplane thermodynamic systems, and worked with policymakers to broaden support for investment in STEM research and education. Most recently, Karen was a 2015-2016 AAAS Congressional Science Fellow, sponsored by the Geological Society of America and the U.S. Geological Survey, where she used her STEM background to tackle national challenges in energy, the environment, basic science research and STEM education.