

Michaela Rikard is a Ph.D. candidate in Biomedical Engineering at the University of Virginia. Her research at UVA focuses on cardiovascular disease and improving therapeutic options for wound healing following a myocardial infarction. She received her B.S. in Biomedical Engineering at North Carolina State University, where she was a member of the Grand Challenge Scholars Program. She was selected to be part of a GCSP leadership team that attended the White House Science Fair in 2015 and met with President Obama.

Michaela is a co-founder and current President of the Science Policy Initiative at UVA. While at UVA, she has helped start a science policy seminar series, science policy course for graduate students, and organized the 1st Annual Science Policy Symposium for graduate student leaders from across the country. She was also part of a student leadership team that launched the National Science Policy Network (NSPN), and currently serves as a National Co-chair. Launched earlier this year with support from Schmidt Futures, the NSPN is a rapidly growing network of over 60 campus-based student-led science policy organizations, representing some of the largest and most prestigious research universities across the United States. She is passionate about changing the paradigm for graduate education and empowering scientists and engineers to be active participants in science policy.