

Brittany Ann Oliver

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West Lafayette, IN 47906

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(765) 427-0339

October 24, 2011

Nancy Bakowski
Manager, Undergraduate Programs
American Chemical Society
1155 Sixteenth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Dr. Bakowski,

Serving as a leader has become an intrinsic part of my daily experiences. In addition to my formal leadership roles, I increasingly find myself stepping up as an unstated, natural leader. When reflecting on a recent community service experience at the local zoo, I was surprised to realize just how compelling this tendency has become. I signed up to simply "volunteer" with decorating for a Halloween fundraiser but soon found myself coordinating car rides, identifying tasks to delegate, and being the "go to" person for the zoo staff. Seven years ago, I would have described myself as shy and tentative, but I can see, from the way my peers look to my organization and self-assurance, how much the leader in me has developed.

My current leadership titles include President of the Purdue American Chemical Society Student Affiliates and mentor and tutor in the Women in Science program. I previously served as Assistant Director of the Office of Volunteer Services at Manchester College, president of Circle K service club, and co-president of the Student Education Association. In almost every organization I join, I find some leadership niche to fulfill, such as in Triathlon Club where I served as USA Triathlon National Challenge representative. In high school, my leadership revolved around community service as I initiated and coordinated the *Reading Teams* program in which over sixty volunteers read at twelve day-care sites. I also chaired the *Shoes for the Needy* campaign in Lafayette collecting over 1,500 pairs of shoes across three Octobers.

My confidence as a leader comes by no means from egoism but rather from diligent preparedness, along with a substantial history of problem-solving when that inevitable glitch transpires. Much of my attention to detail, clear and considerate communication, timeliness, and propensity for methodic planning comes intuitively. The most important skill I have obtained from my leadership roles has been the transformation of a positive, eager attitude into one that also effectively dissipates stress, focuses on the important points, and keeps progress moving forward regardless of setbacks. Such resourceful poise, I believe, is key to success as a leader and requires constant training. Strong leadership is very much an acquired ability, which is why I feel so drawn to this leadership conference.

Two areas of leadership which I especially want to improve are recruitment and networking. Maintaining active membership is a challenge for any club or organization. Chemistry majors,

with demanding course-loads and heavy research commitments, are particularly difficult to engage with long-term interest and attendance. In the feedback from our annual chapter report, our low member count was noted multiple times. Along with my fellow officers, I have been trying to promote more student participation by providing opportunities for professional development, career exploration, community outreach, and of course, fun social activities. Once students get busy with classes, however, attendance numbers always dwindle. I would appreciate the opportunity to learn from the 2012 ACS Leadership Institute how better to attract and retain student members in our local chapter. Though an "I'll take care of it" type of person, I understand the importance of delegating responsibility both to allow other members opportunities for growth and to maximize an organization's capacity to make a positive difference. I want to learn, therefore, how to encourage more members to get involved. My other developmental goal focuses on communication and networking. Social conversation does not come so easily to me and often makes me nervous. In today's world, a person's knowledge and skills can be lost if that person does not know how to advocate for his personal value and to drive interest in the objectives he wants to achieve. Especially for individuals in managerial positions, utilization of honest charisma, social persuasion, and effective communication is critical. I want to improve all aspects of my communication, including speech in front of large groups, informal conversation to build relationships with members, and use of diverse media types such as e-mail, flyers, text messages, and *Facebook*.

Though a senior by credits, my educational career at Purdue is far from over as I transition into the pharmacy program on campus. I plan to finish my Bachelor's degree in biochemistry by next spring and then graduate with a PharmD in May 2016. I will likely pass on my president role to a younger member for the coming fall, but since I will be staying at Purdue, I will continue to help by training the new officers and facilitating communication with our standing connections, such as elementary schools and science fair administrators. I believe that the ACS Leadership Institute will help me bring to my club valuable strategies, especially for increasing member involvement, more effectively communicating club business to members, and establishing national or even international relationships between our chapter and other ACS affiliates. Some of us are always chemists at heart, and while my career path is officially shifting into pharmacy, I believe that chemistry and the principles of ACS will continue to incorporate themselves into my endeavors for a lifetime. I hope that I am given this fantastic opportunity to build my skills to help lead other chemistry majors and community members in furthering the admirable goals of ACS.

Respectfully yours,

Brittany A. Oliver

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2012 Student Leadership Awards Application Form

Please complete all fields and e-mail this form to undergrad@acs.org (include "2012 Leadership Awards" in the subject line) or FAX to 202-872-8068. All paid student members who have completed at least one year of undergraduate studies in the chemical sciences and have held elective office in an active student chapter are eligible to apply. Preference will be given to sophomores and juniors.

All applications must be received by October 26, 2011

1. Full Name:	Brittany Oliver
2. Email Address:	baoliver@purdue.edu
3. SSN:	478-17-9857
4. Mailing Address:	535 Trace Five West Lafayette, IN 47906
5. Telephone:	(765) 427-0339
6. Fax:	(765) 449-1817
7. Institution name:	Purdue University
8. Faculty Advisor /email	Beatriz Cisneros / cisneros@purdue.edu
9. ACS Student Member Number:	30079238
10. Expected Graduation Date:	May 2013

Brittany A. Oliver
Applicant Signature

10/24/11
Date

Beatriz Cisneros
Faculty Advisor Signature

10-24-2011
Date

Brittany Ann Oliver

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OBJECTIVE A challenging career which utilizes my biochemical education, technical experiences, and analytical problem-solving skills beyond lab bench duties to serve people and improve their health.

EDUCATION *Purdue University*, West Lafayette, IN, May 2013
Biochemistry, Bachelor of Science, *ACS Accredited*, GPA 4.0/4.0, Minor: Biology

RELEVANT COURSES AND SKILLS

Organic and Inorganic Chemistry, Genetics, Physics Electricity/Optics, Multivariate Calculus, Statistics
Computer: *OriginPro*, *Contribute* Web Design, *VPython*, *Java*, *Microsoft Excel* and *Powerpoint*
Foreign Language: Spanish

WORK EXPERIENCE

Cook MED Institute, West Lafayette, IN

Lab Assistant, Product Discovery Microbiology Team, May 2011 to August 2011

- Culture and quantify bacterial growth on medical devices to test efficacy of drug incorporation
- Develop flow model of human bladder to test bacterial growth on medical devices

Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

Lab Assistant

USDA Agronomy Lab, January 2011 to May 2011

- Extract RNA from wheat samples; gel electrophoresis for RNA identification and quantification

Biochemistry Department, December 2009 to December 2010

- Examine red blood cell intracellular Ca^{2+} change with osteopontin treatment via fluorometry

Agronomy Department, Summer 2009 to December 2009

- Analyze sugar, starch, nitrogen content in plant samples; evaluate spectrophotometric data in *Excel*

Horticulture Department, Summer 2007

- Prepare apple samples for flow cytometry; assemble cross section slides for cell count, diameter

Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

Tutor and Mentor, Women in Science Program (WISP), August 2010 to Present

Tutor, Tutor.com, July 2010 to Present

- Perceptively guide students through math and science homework and conceptual understanding

Greater Lafayette Foot Care, Lafayette, IN

Clerical Assistant, Fall 2004 to Present

- Meticulously organize patient records (electronic and hard-copy files) and correspondence

Manchester College, North Manchester, IN

Assistant Director, Office of Volunteer Services, Fall 2008 to Spring 2009

- Collaborate with volunteers and philanthropic organizations to coordinate service events

CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- **American Chemical Society**
 - Student Affiliate President, May 2010-Present; National Member, August 2009-Present
 - Thoroughly plan meetings and events; manage details such as forms, reservations, communication; enthusiastically promote member involvement
- **Community Service**
 - Pharmacy Health Fairs, Indiana Veteran's Home, Learn More Center, Junior Achievement, ARC of Wabash (Association of Retarded Citizens), Partners in Learning, UNICEF, Boiler Green Initiative, Habitat for Humanity
- **Raising Awareness of International Medicine, Golden Key International Honour Society, Purdue Triathlon Club, Student Education Association President, Circle K President**

PURDUE

UNIVERSITY

Department of Chemistry

October 24, 2011

American Chemical Society
Attn: Nancy Bakowski
1155 Sixteenth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Dr. Bakowski:

Re: **Brittany A. Oliver**

I am writing to nominate Brittany Ann Oliver for the 2012 Student Leadership award. A senior at Purdue, Brittany is as outstanding a candidate for this award as anyone I can remember in my 36 years on the faculty.

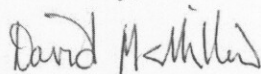
I met Brittany when she took my CHM 241 class in the spring of 2011. The course amounts to a topical survey of inorganic chemistry for undergraduates. The focus is on the main group, and the coverage spans a range of topics including atomic structure, bonding, ionic lattices, descriptive main group chemistry, as well as some basic theory of the nucleus.

Brittany is a very diligent student who finished 2nd in a class of 96 students. She did extremely well on the exams and was one of the most participatory students in the class. In addition to being very able, she was extremely conscientious. I say that because her lab scores were almost perfect. That means she writes excellent reports, as the quality of the written reports are a determining factor for the lab grade. In a course as large as mine, I always ask teaching assistants for input when I write evaluations and nominations, because the assistants work with students in the laboratory on an individual basis. The teaching assistant who worked with Brittany described her as an aspiring and ambitious scientist in the making. She also offered that Brittany is a hard worker who shows a real thirst for knowledge, always asking questions to better understand concepts.

Perhaps even more important in the context of this award, Brittany is a dedicated citizen, a hard worker, and a leader. For the second year running she is President of our American Chemical Student Affiliate chapter. She is also a tutor for our Women in Science program as well as an undergraduate mentor; plus, she works part time to help pay her way.

Without question Brittany is outstanding as a student, leader, and University citizen. I am pleased to give her my highest recommendation because she is so bright, hard working, self reliant, and highly motivated. In short, she is a role model.

Sincerely,



David R. McMillin
Professor of Chemistry