

Donna J. Nelson, President
Oral Report to Council
March 16, 2016

Fellow Councilors,

Community building within ACS is a major theme of my three-year term, so this report will focus on those activities. The programming which I have organized for ACS National Meetings responds directly to the concerns of ACS members. Each symposium included brief talks followed by a panel discussion, in which speakers and members of the audience posed questions to each other. I appreciate those of you who attended and participated in the dialogue with panelists and other audience members.

In a break with tradition, ACS members contributed papers to presidential poster sessions corresponding to the oral sessions and interact with authors and other attendees during poster sessions Sunday evening and Monday during Sci-Mix. Both panel discussions and poster sessions helped build community within our society.

The San Diego Meeting symposia which I organized in order to address members' concerns were:

A. "Discussions with the President's Task Force on Employment." Speakers were members of the president's task force, representing academe, government, and industry. They reported the results so far on topics pertinent to unemployment in the chemical sciences, such as supply and demand in the chemical workforce, career opportunities for undergraduate professionals, professional certificates, preparing graduates for industrial jobs, challenges of unemployment, and global factors influencing employment. Later in this Council Meeting today, you will have an opportunity to contribute your ideas, concerns, and questions.

B. "Is There a Crisis in Organic Chemistry?" Representatives from publishers of comprehensive undergraduate organic chemistry textbooks discussed changes in organic chemistry as a prerequisite, current teaching methods, and responses of organic chemistry programs, professors, and requirements.

C. "Diversity-Quantification-Success." Speakers presented demographic data, disaggregated by race and gender, in the chemical sciences, which are used to drive activities diversifying the chemical sciences.

Additional Presidential programming which addresses the concerns of ACS members is being planned for the ACS National Meeting in Philadelphia. The format will be much the same as that above, consisting of brief presentations followed by panel discussions, with a contributed Presidential poster session for each. The topics selected are:

- A. Standing up for science: Difficult discussions about jobs
- B. Fracking: Economics vs environment
- C. Public perception of science and scientists

Please plan to attend these symposia based on topics which have been identified by ACS members. They are being created out of consideration and care for ACS members.