

Donna J. Nelson
ACS President
Oral Report to Council
Wednesday, August 24, 2016

Fellow Councilors,

Community building within ACS is a major theme of my three-year term, so much of this report builds on those activities outlined in my last report to Council. As before, the programming which I have organized for the Philadelphia ACS National Meeting responded to the concerns of ACS member communities.

Activities at the Philadelphia Meeting

There were 10 Presidential Symposia organized, 5 of which celebrated MOUs signed between ACS and other scientific societies – Chinese Chemical Society, NOBCCChE, Mexican Chemical Society, Chinese American Chemical Society, and Atlantic Basin Conference on Chemistry.

Plans are being made for 2017 programming on topics related to engaging the public in science. If you are interested in one of the topics shown, please contact me.

Dissemination of some results from the San Diego Meeting, via films

For years, ACS has built a global scientific community, via domestic meetings open to international members, publications, international chapters, and other activities abroad. I have spoken overseas officially several times, and some meetings which I have attended are shown in one ppt slide. Recently my message was filmed. This video can be shown at meetings, which I cannot attend, and is downloadable at the URL provided in my written report.

In conjunction with the “Diversity—Quantification—Success” symposium held last March in San Diego, a video of Dr. Vaneica Young was created. Data collected from chemistry department chairs of top research universities in 2002, 2005, 2007, and 2012, disaggregated by race, rank, and gender, revealed that she is the first and currently only female Black professor to have risen through faculty ranks and retired from such a department. She and her computer scientist sister were filmed together, because the theme of the San Diego meeting was “Computers in Chemistry” and because they were very close and influenced each others’ lives and careers significantly. Capturing histories of such role models, who are the first to achieve such milestones, helps to build minority communities in science. A short (5-minute) version and a long (25 minute) version of this film can now be viewed and/or downloaded at the URL provided in my written report.

Task Force on U.S. Employment of Chemists

Following “Discussions with the President’s Task Force on Employment,” held in San Diego, there will be another special session in today’s Council Meeting. You will hear some results selected as most important, from topics such as supply and demand, career opportunities for undergraduate professionals, preparing graduates for industry, unemployment challenges, and global factors. You will be able to suggest additional points which merit attention. Some members of the Task Force will be in attendance to answer short questions, if time remains after additional points are suggested.

American Chemical Society



2016 ACS President Council Meeting

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President
ACS Council Oral Report
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National ACS Meeting Presidential programming



Philadelphia Meeting – sessions requested by ACS members

- Five sessions celebrated renewing the ACS-CCS MOU
- Fracking: Economics vs Environment
- NSF Opportunities
- Chemical Breakthrough Award
- Chemical Business of, by, & for the People
- Chemists and the Public

Planned future programming; I welcome your participation!

San Francisco and Washington DC meetings

- Public perception of science and scientists
- Public policymakers
- Chemists of Courage / Science Superheroes

Building Communities:

ACS MOU Alliance Agreement Schedule for the Signings

Alliance	New/ Renewal	Date	Time	Signatories
Chinese Chemical Society (CCS)	Renewal	Sunday, August 21, 2016	11:30 AM	CCS Vice-President Xi Zhang ACS President: Donna Nelson
NOBCChE	New	Monday, August 22, 2016	12:10 pm	NOBCChE President: Talitha Hampton-Mayo ACS President: Donna Nelson
Mexican Chemical Society (SQM)	New	Tuesday, August 23, 2016	2:00 PM	SQM President: Benjamin Velasco Bejarano ACS President: Donna Nelson
Chinese American Chemical Society (CACS)		Tuesday, August 23, 2016	6:15 pm	CACS President Teng Xu, ACS President: Donna Nelson
ABCChem	New	Tuesday, August 23, 2016	2:30 PM	EuCheMS President, David Cole Hamilton SQM President: Benjamin Velasco Bejarano CSC President: Rui Resendes ACS President: Donna Nelson

Building Communities

Represent ACS in person at meetings



Other organizations and scientific societies (representative examples)

Overseas

- Abu Dhabi, UAE – Install new ACS Chapter
- Paris, France – Initiated MOU with Chemical Society of France
- Kyoto, Japan – Japanese Chemical Society national meeting
- Kyoto, Japan – Initiated collaboration with Japan's STS Forum
- Rabat, Morocco – Malta Conference
- London, UK – Royal Society of Chemistry
- Halifax, Canada – Canadian Society of Chemistry
- Dalian, China – Chinese Chemical Society

Domestic

- Washington, DC - Council of Scientific Societies Presidents
- Philadelphia, PA – Chemical Heritage Foundation Awards
- New York City, NY – Alan Alda Flame Challenge Award
- Bethesda, MD – NIH Diversity in Medicine and Related Fields
- Washington, DC – White House Initiative on Computer Science Education

Jobs and Careers Task Force Members



Attila Pavlath, co-chair

Bryan Balazs

Susan Butts

Allison Campbell

Sibrina Collins

Debbie Crans

Peter Dorhout

Mary Engelman

Rick Ewing

Karl Haider

Tiffany Hoerter

Paul Jagodzinski

Wayne Jones

Michael Morello

Marinda Li Wu

Accepting input on TF suggestions



- 1 Increase transparency about jobs in the chemical sciences
- 2 Form leadership advisory team on employment and career assistance, similar to Diversity and Inclusion
- 3 Update ACS Approved Degree requirements to increase employability
- 4 Identify/develop training on current graduates' missing skills
- 5 For undergrads, discourage specialization & traditional careers
- 6 Adopt targeted/individualized program for members, based on geography, demographics, and all career levels
- 7 Add interviewing, networking, resume writing to list of soft skills
- 8 “Hands-on”/”real world” training via capstones, internships, co-ops
- 9 Disseminate to members, students, technicians, and employers at regional/local meetings, webinars, career fairs, Prog-in-Box, LdrInst
- 10 Tailor employment tools/skills training for URM (+ URM societies)
- 11 Work with URM societies to advance URM employment opportunities
- 12 Chem Luminary Award for best employability / URM outreach
- 13 Focus on global employment data on outsourcing & immigration

Feel free to contact me -



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Ideas, concerns, thoughts,
comments, requests, proposals,
complaints, etc.