

Diane Grob Schmidt, President
Council Oral Report
Wednesday, August 19, 2015

Good morning fellow Councilors and members of governance.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as President of your professional Society. Today I would like to update you on several initiatives under my Presidential theme of “Inspiring and Innovating for Tomorrow.”

Once again, I am so honored to serve as ACS President during the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the ACS Scholars Program. I’m also proud to announce my former employer, Procter & Gamble, has made a major pledge to bring the company’s giving to the \$1 million Benefactor level. The Anniversary Appeal is going very well. I am excited to announce that we have achieved our \$1 million goal, but we can’t rest on our laurels. We have so many more gifted students we can support to develop the future talent pipeline needed for the chemical enterprise, if we have the funds. So, I ask you to consider a gift of any level that is comfortable for you as we move this remarkable success story to the next level. [Slide 1](#) Please refer to the website on the slide.

As I mentioned in Denver, Tom Connelly and I have developed a summit of Chief Technology Officers convened by ACS. This is on track for late September. ACS benefits by learning the current issues most critical to the success of the chemistry enterprise, and developing programs to serve our industry members. I will continue to keep you updated on the progress and outcomes of this Summit.

In Denver, two of my Presidential symposia focused on developments in nanotechnology across industry, academia, and government. This programming caught the attention of the White House Office of Science & Technology Policy, and specifically the National Nanotechnology Coordination Office. As an outcome of these symposia, they enlisted the help of ACS to publicize a Grand Challenge on Nanotechnology that was issued at the end of June. In early July, ACS hosted a webinar to ensure that chemists help shape the future directions of the federal government’s investments in nanoscience and nanotechnology. With the success of that webinar, OSTP is looking to collaborate with ACS on promotion of future Grand Challenges.

Through a relationship with the American Chemistry Council established by my predecessor Tom Barton, we have had a series of meetings to examine the workforce needs of the chemical industry and the capabilities of two-year colleges to meet those needs. Stemming from those discussions, we created the Presidential Task Force on Addressing Workforce Needs through Industry/Two-Year College Partnerships. Members represent industry, academia, and our Society.

By the end of this year, the Task Force will produce a concise report that summarizes the workforce development issues addressed and articulates the strategies needed to create partnerships between local industry and two-year institutions to produce more graduates with the skills needed to meet the workforce demands of local industry.

Lastly I would like to thank all of you. This is my last Council meeting as ACS President, and I am eternally grateful for the guidance, advice and support so many of you have shown me throughout this year. It was been an honor to serve our members and represent this tremendous Society.

Thank you so much. This concludes my report.



ACS Scholars Appeal

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