

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:	Sandra Bichanh-Tran Dang
2. Email Address:	Sandi.dang@TCU.edu
3. SSN:	030-24-6869
4. Mailing Address:	3310 Rogers Ave Ft. Worth TX 76109
5. Telephone:	817-681-5097
6. Fax:	
7. Institution name:	Texas Christian University
8. Faculty Advisor /email	Kayla N. Green Kayla.green@tcu.edu
9. ACS Student Member Number:	30124278
10. Expected Graduation Date:	May 2013


 Applicant Signature


 Faculty Advisor Signature

09-09-11
Date

09-09-11
Date

Sandi Dang
3310 Rogers Avenue
Fort Worth, Texas 76109
(817) 681-5097
sandi.dang@tcu.edu

October 25, 2011

Nancy Bakowski
Undergraduate Programs
American Chemical Society
1155 16th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Ms. Bakowski ,

My name is Sandi Dang, a junior Chemistry and Mathematics double degree student at Texas Christian University (TCU), and I am interested in applying for a position at the 2012 ACS Leadership Institute. As a member of the American Chemical Society, I have attended various meetings at the local section, one meeting at the regional level, where I have presented two posters during the SRWM/SERMACS Joint Meeting in December 2011. In addition, I am planning on attending the national meeting in March 2012, where I will present a poster.

I am currently serving as the president of the Texas Christian University Student Affiliate of the American Chemical Society, commonly known as the TCU Chemistry Club. During my time as president, I have seen our chapter grow from a simple idea to an organization that is extremely active on-campus. Our on-campus events have included bringing in speakers from industrial companies in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex to discuss the possibilities after graduation with students respective majors. Our speakers have included ZSPharma, Alcon Labs, and Bell Helicopters. In addition to providing career seminars, our chapter has been active in raising awareness of chemistry to the general student body by allowing students access to hands-on activities in the courtyard of the school library.

While we are active on campus, we are also extremely active in the Fort Worth Community. I have been able to coordinate community service projects at a local underprivileged elementary school, Major Cheney Elementary at South Birdville in Haltom City, Texas. We have aided a local fifth grade teacher, Mrs. Melinda Strittmatter, with preparing her students for the Texas Achievement of Knowledge and Skills. In addition, I have been able to head a collaborative effort between Texas Christian University, Southern Methodist University, University of Texas-Dallas, Texas Woman's University, University of North Texas, Texas Wesleyan, University of Dallas, and The Fort Worth Museum of the Science and History for 2011's National Chemistry Week. During National Chemistry Week at the Museum, all schools have collaborated in sharing their love and knowledge of chemistry to the museum patrons.

In addition to the collaborative work between local universities and The Fort Worth Museum of Science and History, I have also been overseeing various aspects of the TCU Chemistry Club. My duties as president include running meetings, planning various chapter events, and being a direct contact for the members to our faculty advisor, Dr. Kayla Green.

In addition to being the president of the TCU Chemistry Club, I also sit on the TCU College of Science and Engineering Student Advisory Board as the Undergraduate Chemistry Representative. As a member of this board, I collaborate with other representatives from other departments within the College on improving the experience of our peers in the College. We are working directly with the Dean of the

College of Science and Engineering, Dr. Dmeitris Kouris, in order to improve the quality of the College. As a board, we have been able to take the suggestions from our peers and make them a reality. Our current project includes creating a scholarship fund for the students and creating a yearly activity for the students.

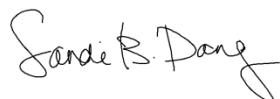
By serving as the president of the TCU Chemistry Club and on the Student Advisory Board, I have a great deal of experience in collaborative work with different people and organizations at the university level, ACS Section Level, and Fort Worth community level. Conan O'Brien once said "Nobody in life gets exactly what they thought they were going to get. But if you work really hard and you're kind, amazing things will happen." This quote has become my personal mantra as a leader; I believe that kindness and hard work can get anything done. In addition to learning the importance of hard work and kindness, I have also gained skills in organization. There are plenty of times when one member is looking for a demonstration in which they would like to revisit, and I have often times know where the handouts and supplies for the demonstration are located in our office.

While many of my peers and mentors view me as being a strong leader, there is always room for improvement. One of things that I would like to improve as a leader is my public speaking skills. I have always been a strong communicator through emails, but I haven't been able to convey the same message that I can convey through emails to a large group of people in front of me. I usually go into what Dr. Green calls "awkward laughter", when I am in front of large groups of people since I typically feel very uncomfortable. In addition, I would also like to improve my delegation skills. For various aspects of the Chemistry Club, I frequently feel as if it's my responsibility to make sure everything is taken care, when it should be others member's jobs. And if it starts to take longer than I anticipated, I begin to start feeling uneasy and end up doing it myself. I also would like to improve my conflict management skills, often times, I avoid conflict going on in the organization since it makes me feel uncomfortable when dealing with conflict

While the above is a short list of improvements that I would like to see in me. By attending the 2012 ACS Leadership Institute, I will be able to take the lessons and skills I learned and strengthen the TCU Chemistry Club and other aspects of my personal life. For example, if I learn to delegate tasks for efficiently, students will be able to have the same rewarding experience that I have had in the Chemistry Club, which in turn will create a stronger chapter. In addition, if I am able to improve my conflict management skills, I will be able to sit down with parties involved talk about issues and possible means of overcoming them. This will create a conflict free organization, which also will strengthen the chapter.

A copy of my curriculum vitae is enclosed as a part of my application for your reference, and Dr. Green has submitted my letter of recommendation. If you have any questions or concerns, I can be contacted by phone at 817-681-5087 or by email at sandi.dang@tcu.edu. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Sandi B. Dang
Class of 2013
Chemistry, B.S. and Mathematics, B.S.
TCU Chemistry Club President
College of Science and Engineering Student Advisory Board Chemistry Undergraduate Representative
sandi.dang@tcu.edu

Sandi B. Dang

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(817) 681-5097 • sandi.dang@tcu.edu

EDUCATION

Texas Christian University
College of Science and Engineering
Chemistry, B.S., Mathematics B.S, Double Degree
Expected Graduation, May 2013

Fort Worth, Texas

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Texas Christian Student Affiliate of the American Chemical Society
President

Fort Worth, Texas
August 2010-Present

- Volunteer Activities Coordinator
- Aided in Fundraising Efforts on Campus
- Organized and ran weekly bi-weekly meetings
- On Campus Activities Coordinator

College of Science and Engineering Student Advisory Board
Undergraduate Chemistry Representative

Fort Worth, Texas
January 2011-Present

- Collaborated with other representatives from other departments in the College and the Dean of the College in order to improve the experience for the peers in the College.
- Aided in creating scholarship fund for the specifically for the College of Science and Engineering Students
- Aided in coordinating an Activities Fair for the students of the college.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Undergraduate Research
Undergraduate Researcher

Fort Worth, Texas
Fall 2010-Fall 2010

- Researched polymer synthesis using microwave reactors under the direction of Dr. Eric E. Simanek.
- Presented “Microwave Synthesis of Hyperbranched Polymers” at SWRM/SERMACS Joint Meeting Undergraduate Poster Session in December 2011

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Texas Christian University
General Chemistry Lab Teaching Assistant

Fort Worth, Texas
January 2011-Present

- Prepared weekly labs
- Aided Students with lecture material and performing labs
- Aided Dr. Coffey in grading laboratory reports

HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2011 winner of The Michael and Sally McCracken 9th Annual Student Research Symposium.
- 2011 recipient of the TCU Pillars of University Leadership for the Class of 2013 at the Celebration of University Leadership