Adapted from the
ACS Committee on Technician Affairs

Northern Oklahoma Technician of the Year Award Candidate Form

Thank you for your participation in the Northern Oklahoma Technician of the Year Award program. For each nominee, a completed nomination packet is required. The packet must include, at minimum, the following:

- The completed nomination form
- At least one letter of recommendation from someone familiar with the candidate's work

Other material can be included, if desired; however, the completed packet, included letter(s) of recommendation and supporting materials, must not exceed six single-sided, single-spaced pages. Type must be at least 10-point font.

[***Note:*** this cover page is not considered part of the nomination packet.]

The form should expand as needed to include all information you wish to include in the form. All material included in the nomination packet should be cleared for release outside your organization. ***Packets exceeding six pages in length or containing proprietary, confidential, or private information will not be accepted.***

Nomination packets must be received by June 19, 2015.

Submit nomination packets to

Keith Stanger
618 Oakridge Drive
Bartlesville, OK 74006
918-333-0231 (home)
574-344-8722 (cell)
Keith_J_Stanger@hotmail.com

Contact Keith Stanger with any questions or concerns.

June 17, 2015

To,
Dr. Keith Stanger
618 Oakridge Drive
Bartlesville, OK 74006

Subject: Nominating Ronnie Brown for the "Northern Oklahoma Technician of the Year" Award

Dear Keith,

I am writing this letter of nomination for Ronnie Brown, Senior Technician, Research Services Engineering and Operations Group (RSEO), Phillips 66 to consider him for the "Northern Oklahoma Technician of the Year" award. For the last 15 years, Ronnie has been an integral part of the RSEO Group and pilot plant operations. Ronnie's excellent skillset related to safely building and operating pilot plants and assisting engineers in collecting quality data has helped ConocoPhillips and Phillips 66 in advancing at least six strategic technologies from laboratory to either pilot or commercial phase.

Safety has always been the value and first priority for Ronnie and he is a role model of how to implement OSHA Process Safety Management (PSM) standard in daily pilot plant operations. Ronnie has been leading this effort and has contributed in every aspect of PSM including SOPs, Process Hazard Analysis, Pre-startup Safety Review, Mechanical Integrity, and Emergency Preparedness. He has taken his passion for safety beyond his regular job and has shown safety leadership as the Captain of the site-wide Emergency Response Team. Throughout his career, Ronnie has respectfully communicated with his peers, engineers, and contractors to execute big pilot projects. One of Ronnie's big assets is seeing potential problems in pilot plant operations (operating procedures, unit modifications, troubleshooting) that others haven't thought about and coming up with practical solutions to fix them. Ronnie has always discussed these problems and practical solutions to address them with Process Engineers and after getting an agreement from them, he has successfully addressed them by showing excellent self-motivation.

Even after having an accomplished skill set and a depth and breadth of experience, Ronnie has always been down to earth and ready to go above and beyond of his job responsibilities to assist and mentor new employees (professionals and technicians). His pleasant and easily approachable nature makes everyone comfortable. Over the years Ronnie has mentored 20+ technicians in the areas of safety, PSM, pilot plant operations, mechanical aptitude and helped them create a strong foundation for succeeding in their own careers.

In the last seven years, I have worked with 25+ technicians and I can say with confidence that Ronnie is in the top 10% amongst them. I hope the attached letters of recommendations from Wayne Roper, Christian Green, and Barbara Todd will help in supporting my nomination.

Sincerely,

Sourabh Pansare
Director, PDC Engineering
ACS Member Number: 2399109

Candidate information

Name:	Ronnie Brown	***Title:***	Senior Technician
Company name:	Phillips 66		
Complete work address:	PDC-01-108		
Work phone:	918-977-7281	***Email:***	Ronnie.G.Brown@p66.com

Candidate's immediate supervisor's information

Supervisor's name:	Wayne Roper	***Supervisor's title:***	PDC/COE Lab Foreman
Work Phone:	918-977-4126	***Email:***	Wayne.A.Roper@p66.com

Nominator's information

Nominator's name:	Sourabh Pansare	***Nominator's title:***	Director PDC Engineering
Work Phone:	918-977-7360	***Email:***	Sourabh.S.Pansare@p66.com

Candidate Eligibility

All three boxes in the Eligible column must be checked for candidate to be eligible.

	Eligible	***Ineligible***
1. Is the candidate a chemistry-based laboratory technician, process technician, operator, analyst, or other applied chemical technology professional?	☒ Yes	☐ No
2. Has the candidate been employed for at least five years as an applied chemical technology professional?	☒ Yes	☐ No
3. Is the candidate currently a member of the Committee on Technician Affairs Executive Board and/or Advocacy & Public Relations Subcommittee?	☒ No	☐ Yes

Candidate's contribution in six areas of award criteria

Make space as necessary under each category. Total packet, including letter(s) of recommendation, must not exceed 6 pages, minimum 10-point font. Do not include proprietary, confidential, or private information..

Technical Achievements (worth 60%)

Ronnie has provided numerous suggestions for unit improvements over his career and is the "go to" person for leading some of the project completions. He led the effort in the modification of Unit 03 (Benzene Alkylation), by adding a new side draw system, a new reactor and numerous new instruments for the project. Ronnie worked directly with the project engineer and the maintenance department during the construction and the commissioning of this unit.

Ronnie has played a large role in the Sequential Mixing project where he has identified an issue with the emulsions and led the effort to get it corrected. He drew up the design for the modification, reviewed the design with the project engineer, worked with the Maintenance Group during the modifications and revised the P&ID's and procedures. Because of the enhancements, the number of experiments that can be completed in a week has doubled resulting in accelerated technology development.

Ronnie identified the need for better temperature control on our Blend Tank and worked directly with an engineer to come up with a temperature control loop controlling the steam to the vessel jacket instead of using regulator control. This has given us much better control of the tank temperature with much less operator time and intervention.

Other (Considered together to make up the remaining 40%)

Leadership/Mentoring (15%)

Ronnie is a shift leader for the pilot plant shift work operation in Process Development Center (PDC) High Bay Area. In this role, he is in charge of the unit operation during his shift receiving run instructions from the unit professionals and directs the work activities to accommodate these

requests. He also oversees the maintenance activities for the process area ensuring they are following our procedures and policies. Ronnie is our most experienced operator and has helped to train and to mentor over 20 new technicians who have come through the pilot plant operator ranks. He also mentored some of the young professional and made sure they understood the policies, safe work practices and unit safe operation.

Number of communications/publications (5%) Please do not include titles.

External publications, presentations, patents

Internal presentations, publications Include SOPs, presentation to teams, etc.
Ronnie has presented monthly group safety meetings. He is one of ten identified trainers to present LOTO (lock out tag out) training to 230 people from Phillips 66 Technology Organization. Ronnie has been assigned ten SOP procedures to maintain their annual certification and necessary revisions, which is one of the key requirements of PSM.

Contribution to quality, safety, and other initiatives (5%)
Ronnie is a volunteer and a Captain on the Phillips Research Center (PRC) Emergency Response Team where he attends training in Hazmat response and industrial firefighting. This includes eight hours of on-site training every other month and a week of off-site training at a fire school.
Ronnie has participated on several Process Hazard Analysis (PHA) sessions for various units in PDC High Bay. These usually last about a week per unit and the team goes over the unit Process Safety Information (PSI) line by line looking for any potential hazards and safe guards that are in place. Ronnie has always brought key insights related to safety of the process during these sessions.

Awards (5%)
ERT Captain in 2013

Professional and community activities (ACS, AIChE, outreach, etc.) (10%)
Ronnie lead Sunday school class at his Church and coached young boys and girls sport teams for several years.

I am honored to be requested to submit a letter of recommendation for the nomination of Ronnie Brown for the Northern Oklahoma Technician of the Year Award. Ronnie Brown is a shift leader with over 15 years of experience operating, trouble shooting and modifying different pilot plant units that included fluidized and fixed bed reactors, vacuum and continuous batch distillations, membrane and adsorption units at the Phillips 66 Research Center.

Ronnie took the lead on modifying an existing unit for benzene removal (Unit 03), by working with the project engineer to add a new 10 foot reactor and making major modifications to the distillation column, including adding a side draw system and the ability to feed the reactor directly from the column. He was instrumental in revising the procedure and commissioning the unit for operation.

Ronnie has been part of the operation along with several modifications to our hydrotreating unit (Unit 09). He participated in numerous renewable fuel projects on this unit, including converting corn oil, beef tallow, and sugar alcohol to usable fuels. He worked in conjunction with the project engineer to develop a way to sample the reactor internal contents. His idea was implemented and is now used for better and safer data collection.

Most recently, Ronnie has been working on a Sequential Mixing project, developed in collaboration with Crude and Desalting – Refining Research group that has been upgraded several times. Ronnie identified a problem with an emulsion layer and suggested a modification to allow separation of the wet and dry products. This helped to increase the number of runs in addition to achieve more consistent runs. He drew up the plans, had them approved by the project engineer, worked with the maintenance shop for the modifications and updated the procedures and the P&IDs.

Ronnie participated in the construction and operation of the first S-Zorb pilot plant and gained a lot of valuable experience with understanding and trouble shooting a continuous solid transfer unit. This is a complex unit, involving the circulation of catalyst from vessel to vessel, along with maintaining catalyst fluidization in each one. This was continually optimized with the aid of Ronnie and the other operators, and it was commercialized in several refineries.

Ronnie has played a big role in managing the various parts of Process Safety Management (PSM). This included the initiation and completion of Management of Change (MOC) and Pre-Startup Safety Review (PSSR) documents, and the completion and documentation of the annual Mechanical Integrity (MI) inspections. Ronnie also leads table top safety exercises for his shift and has led numerous monthly safety meetings.

Ronnie is well thought of among his peers and they all look to him for advice for safety and operation. He provides good communication between the unit professionals, shift superintendents and his supervisor, keeping them abreast of unit operations or safety concerns. He is also a Captain on the Phillips 66 PRC Emergency Response Team which is a testament to his leadership in that team environment.

Ronnie has demonstrated a great work ethic and leadership qualities in this team environment. He leads by example doesn't ask anyone to do something he is not willing to do himself. This has gained him the respect of his fellow coworkers.

I consider it a privilege to be able to know and work directly with Ronnie Brown for so many years and I really hope he'll be honored with the Northern Oklahoma Technician of the Year Award.

Wayne Roper, Phillips66, RSEO High Bay Foreman

NOK-ACS Members,

I am writing today to support the nomination of Ronnie Brown for the 2015 Technician of the Year award. I have known Ronnie since joining ConocoPhillips as a pilot plant engineer in 2009, and I continue to be impressed by his blend of hard work, know-how, dedication, and care for his colleagues.

Ronnie has held the position of Shift Leader at the Process Development Center for nearly ten years, where his responsibilities include coordinating pilot plant operations, maintenance activities, and safety protocols as outlined in the OSHA Process Safety Management standard. As a Shift Leader, he provides daily work direction, prioritization assistance, and training for the PDC operators, always treating his coworkers with respect in the process. He also works with Shift Superintendents to oversee issuance of permits for high bay work, including hot work and safety bypasses. Ronnie works with engineers to develop and review pilot plant operating procedures, and he has significant responsibility for executing and documenting the management of change process. He takes great pride in his work and strives to ensure the high bay appearance is always reflective of its showplace status on site tours. Ronnie is willing to go above and beyond, as evidenced by his role of captain on the Phillips 66 Research Center Emergency Response Team.

Ronnie has been involved on a number of high-profile pilot plant projects over the past several years. He was instrumental in the construction and operation of the S Zorb sulfur removal technology pilot plant (Unit 10), a complex fluidized moving bed process. He also helped install a bitumen dewatering system (Unit 06), commission a high-pressure hydrotreater (Unit 09) utilized for biofuel upgrading projects, modified Unit 03 for benzene alkylation, and assisted with construction of a batch mix system for desalting research. Throughout these assignments, Ronnie exhibited a desire to learn about the underlying science, and he openly shared his observations, opinions, and questions in an effort to drive improvements. I can recall occasions when run sheet instructions were either unclear or inconsistent with project discussions. Ronnie was quick to avoid setbacks by catching these discrepancies, seeking clarification when needed, and then executing the revised plan. He has adapted his high-quality record keeping to our new electronic laboratory notebook system.

Two recent examples of Ronnie championing process improvements stand out. In the first case, his understanding of biofuel feedstock temperature sensitivity led to the suggestion of installing a hot oil system for feed preheating, alleviating the hot wall temperatures and resultant thermal decomposition experienced with the traditionally-used clamshell furnaces. He took the lead role on getting the new equipment specified, installed, tested, and commissioned. On the batch mix unit, his simple suggestion of installing a standpipe on the product tank greatly simplified separation of the hydrocarbon and emulsion phases, improving experimental efficiency and reducing operator exposure. Attributes like these make him an extremely effective team member.

In summary, I fully support the effort to recognize Ronnie's service by nominating him for the Technician of the Year award. He exemplifies a number of qualities that make him a great role model for those in the scientific support community.

Regards,
Christian Green
Director, Refining Process Optimization
Phillips 66 Technology

June 8, 2015

I am writing to express my support for the nomination of Ronnie G. Brown to receive the American Chemical Society Technician of the Year Award.

I have worked with Ronnie on numerous assignments. Ronnie is a talented and dedicated pilot-scale operations technician in the Process Development Center (PDC) at Phillips 66 Research Center in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. He is helpful, honest, and ethical. He is exceptional in the area of integrity and safety performance. His work as shift lead has allowed him to focus on training new operators with many safe hours of side-by-side training over the past five years. We owe a great deal of our safety success to Ronnie's efforts at training our new operators. He also is PDC's primary contributor of Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for new and revamped equipment. He initiates Management of Change (MOC) documents to comply with OSHA 1910 Process Safety Management Request for Change regulations, and is a common participant in Process Hazard Analyses of pilot-scale units.

He has managed numerous complex pilot-scale equipment changes. Recently he led operations' revamp of a unit on a patented process that removes the last bit of benzene from gasoline. Leading revamps of units requires careful handling of conflicting priorities, significant work planning skills, outstanding communications, installation of equipment, oversight of safe installation of equipment, and safe commissioning of the unit. Ronnie ordered and helped specify most of the new equipment for the benzene removal from gasoline work. This work culminated in successful pilot-scale operations in 2012.

During the first quarter of 2015, sludge was depositing in feed and product tanks on a small unit that is exploring water and oil mixing for the removal of salt from crude oil. The sludge deposition was causing the need to increase settling times in the tanks making increased pilot-scale operations time required between experimental points. The process engineer discussed installing some stand pipes in the tanks, so that the feed liquid could be pulled from the talk where the material was of more consistent quality. Ronnie did the mechanical design and project plan. Ronnie carried his design through review with engineering and machining. He actively coordinated the project with the operations foreman, machine shop, inspections and completed the construction. He led the MOC process for this change from initiation to completion. This project was done on schedule, significantly reduced settling times in the tanks, and maintained consistency of the feedstock. The project doubled the number of experimental points that are able to be taken in a week, saving both time and experimental cost. The feed stock quality was the same or better at less than 0.25 volume percent water after settling. It is an exceptional example of demonstrated technical achievement by a technician.

Ronnie builds spreadsheet-based mass balance sheets for pilot-scale units that are used for operations both in routine use and in an Electronic Laboratory Notebook. He was the first operator to embrace our electronic MOC system and is counted on to test the system when it is improved. He continues to be relied on heavily by the other operators when they are learning to use that system. Ronnie demonstrates leadership skills every day in his position as shift lead, but quite frankly Ronnie's strongest attributes are deeply rooted in his honest, trustworthy, and respectful behavior.

Ronnie demonstrates all the criteria for the American Chemical Society Technician of the Year Award shown on the nomination form and deserves consideration for this award.

Sincerely,

Barbara A. Todd
Separations Team Lead