

The Minnesota Chemist



Chair's Corner

Happy February! The Minnesota Local ACS is off to a strong start this year of in-person offerings, and the energy surrounding this is terrific to see! At the end of this month (February 28th), I will be hosting academic chemists at Metro State University for round table discussions on challenges and possible solutions facing teaching faculty in the Twin Cities. On March 12th, researchers at Donaldson will host MN ACS members for a seminar titled *From filtration to emissions: the impacts of chemistry changes to modern diesel fuels*. Many of us might be headed to San Diego for the National Meeting in later March—I hope you'll say hello if this is in your plans. An April event is being planned with a focus on project management—and before we know it, awards will be the focus in May. We are also planning on a social event in June. We hope you will find something to fit your schedule!



Sarah Dimick Gray
Chair 2025

ACS MN Local Section Meetings

Undergraduate Chemistry Faculty Networking Event Friday, February 28, 2025

Join this year's Chair, Sarah Dimick Gray of Metro State University, to discuss the successes, challenges, and pressing issues facing undergraduate Chemistry faculty.

Time & Location

February 28, 2025, 1:30 PM – 4:30 PM

Metro State University, Dayton's Bluff Campus, Jason R. Carter Science Education Center, Room 115, 664 6th St E, St Paul, MN 55106

Parking is available in the ramp on Maria Ave., a 3 minute walk to the SEC

Light refreshments will be served.

Register by February 21 at <https://www.mnlocalsectionacs.org/event-info/undergraduate-chemistry-faculty-networking-event> or email [Sarah Dimick Gray](#).

Objective: Chemistry faculty primarily teaching undergraduate students across the Twin Cities will have a chance to network and discuss common issues academic institutions are facing today.

Format: After informal gathering, organizer will give a short address. Attendees will be directed to tables for round table discussions on selected issues. After 20 minutes or so, report out to group on discussions. Opportunity to mix up groups in the middle, and then a subsequent discussion.

Possible issues to discuss:

- What have you observed in enrollment trends in the past four years?
- How have the format of your classes changed post-pandemic?
- What careers do your students aspire to following program completion?
- What challenges are your students facing in successful completion of your program? How are you approaching a solution?
- Do you have a format for undergraduate research? What types of projects have you found to be successful? Where do your students present this research?
- Are you pursuing new experiments in your undergraduate labs? If so, what types are you investigating?
- Have you experienced any recent safety issues in your labs that you've needed to address?
- Are you incorporating "green chemistry" in your programs? If so, what does this look like?
- Are there new classes you are developing for general education, or for majors?
- How can the ACS further support of your program?

Technical Presentation at Donaldson Wednesday, March 12, 2025

Join us at Donaldson for a tour and to learn more about the innovative world of filtration.

From filtration to emissions: the impacts of chemistry changes to modern diesel fuels

Presented by

Matthew Goertz, Senior Principal Scientist, Advanced Materials & Chemistry, Corporate Technology, Donaldson

Time & Location

March 12, 2025

Donaldson, 9301 James Ave S, Bloomington, MN 55431

Dinner will be served.

Watch the MN ACS website for additional details.

Project Management for Scientists April 2025

Unlock Project Success: Intro to Project Management for Scientists

Are you a scientist navigating the complexities of academia, industry, or volunteer-led STEM initiatives? Whether you are managing laboratory expansions, developing new products or courses, or organizing impactful STEM events, effective project management can make all the difference.

Join us for a **1-hour introductory session** designed to equip you with essential project management tools and techniques tailored for the scientific community.

What You'll Learn:

- What is a project? Gain clarity on how projects differ from routine tasks.
- Project Charters Made Simple: Learn the key elements of a project charter and why it's critical to your success.
- From Scope to Schedule: Discover how to define your project's scope, create a Work Breakdown Structure (WBS), and develop a realistic schedule.
- Navigating Risks and Communication: Explore strategies to identify risks, keep

stakeholders aligned, and maintain seamless communication.

Why Attend?

This session is perfect for:

- Scientists managing laboratory moves, expansions, or mergers.
- Team members involved in product or course development projects.
- Volunteers planning STEM/STEAM events, meetings, or activities.

You'll leave with practical knowledge and actionable tips to take a project from concept to completion with confidence. Plus, we'll wrap up with a fun, interactive activity to solidify your learning!

Don't miss this opportunity to boost your project management skills and drive success in your work and volunteer efforts.

Presented by

Rachel Mussell, PMP, DASM and Mike Schafer, PMP

Time & Location

April 2025
Metro Area

Dinner will be served.

Watch the MN ACS website for additional details.

Speaker bios

Rachel and Mike run Back in the Box Consulting, LLC, a training and consulting firm dedicated to helping individuals and organizations implement straightforward, effective processes to reach their goals.

Rachel brings expertise in marketing project management and educational product development, with a focus on delivering practical tools and techniques that drive success in both personal and professional growth.

Mike is a seasoned project management professional with decades of experience leading teams, processes, and projects in manufacturing, software development, and IT. He emphasizes principle-centered strategies to create impactful and meaningful training experiences.

Call for Nominations

2025 Minnesota High School Chemistry Teaching Award

In 2025, the section will recognize an outstanding high school chemistry teacher with the Award for Excellence in High School Chemistry Teaching. The most recent awards were given to:

- Rena Benedict of Forest Lake
- Marcy Copeland of Granite Falls
- Patricia Richards of Como Park High School
- Michael Minnema of North Community HS
- Becky Keller of Highland Park HS, St. Paul
- Jamie Crannell of Chaska HS
- Jennifer Steiger of Mahtomedi HS
- Janice Gepner of St. Paul Academy
- Ian Bronson of North High School
- David Tweeten of Minnehaha Academy
- Cassandra Knutson of White Bear Lake High School
- Dr. Angela N. Osuji of Washburn High School, Minneapolis

The nominee must be engaged in high school chemistry teaching (grades 9-12). The nomination must include a biographical sketch, a list of publications (if any) and a statement of and evaluation of the nominee's achievements as a high school chemistry

teacher. The nomination should clearly demonstrate the following attributes:

1. The quality of the candidate's teaching including effective methods of presentation
2. The ability to challenge and inspire students
3. Extracurricular work in chemistry including science fairs, science clubs, and activities that stimulate the interest of young people in chemistry and related sciences
4. Willingness to keep up-to-date in chemistry

The nominating packet may include up to three supporting letters from supervisors, associates, MN section members, or former students who have graduated from high school.

The award consists of a plaque and cash award of \$600 which will be presented at the May meeting of the section.

The nomination procedure is simple - nominating letter and all supporting information should be emailed to [Ramesh C. Kumar](#), Chair MN ACS Awards Committee on or before **March 15, 2025**.

2025 Janet Tarino Volunteer Award

The Janet Tarino Volunteer Award will be given to an individual for outstanding volunteer service to Minnesota ACS, and/or chemistry related projects and events not directly connected to Minnesota ACS. This person will have demonstrated an exceptional passion for and commitment to community outreach, and dedication to projecting a positive image of chemists. Nominating documents should include curriculum vitae and examples of volunteer service. The award consists of a plaque and cash award of \$250 which will be presented at the May meeting of the section. Nominations should be emailed to [Ramesh C. Kumar](#), Chair MN ACS Awards Committee, on or before **March 15, 2025**.

2025 The Lyle Hall Senior Chemist Award

The Lyle Hall Senior Chemist Award is based upon preferably post-retirement professional activities of a member of the Minnesota ACS Section who has entered into formal retirement from his/her primary job. Professional activities can include volunteer ACS service, volunteer activities in any other scientific organization such as the Minnesota Academy of Science (i.e. Science Fair Judging), professional writing, consulting, and/or research. Nominating documents should include curriculum vitae and examples of volunteer service. The award consists of a plaque and cash award of \$250 which will be presented at the May meeting of the section. Nominations should be emailed to [Ramesh C. Kumar](#), Chair MN ACS Awards Committee, on or before **March 15, 2025**.

Awards for Professional Women Chemists from Iota Sigma Pi, the National Honor Society for Women in Chemistry

IOTA SIGMA PI is soliciting nominations for the awards listed below.

The Deadline for submission for the *Agnes Fay Morgan Award* and the *Centennial Award* is **February 15, 2025**. All nomination forms and criteria for the awards can be found on the website. <http://www.iotasigmapi.org>

If you know eligible candidates, I hope you will take the time to nominate them. You may nominate one person for each award. The awards are administered by Director of Professional Awards, [Julia Vaynberg](#).

Two awards are given yearly.

- Agnes Fay Morgan Research Award (\$1000): The award is given for research achievement to a woman chemist or biochemist not over forty years of age.
- Centennial Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching (\$1000): The award is given for excellence in teaching chemistry, biochemistry, or a chemistry-related field

at an undergraduate institution that does not offer a graduate program in that field or holds a teaching position that is for teaching undergraduates > 75% of her time at an institution that does have a graduate program in her department.

Awards for Women Student Chemists from Iota Sigma Pi, the National Honor Society for Women in Chemistry

IOTA SIGMA PI is soliciting nominations for the awards and scholarship listed below. Deadline for submission is **February 15, 2025**. All nomination forms and criteria for the awards and scholarship can be found on the website. <http://www.iotasigmapi.org>
If your institution has eligible candidates, I hope you will take the time to nominate them. Each department may nominate up to one student for each award.

The following awards are administered by Director of Students Awards, [Sarbjee Kaur](#).

- Undergraduate Award for Excellence in Chemistry (\$1000): The award recognizes excellence in chemistry by a woman undergraduate student (senior).
- Kathryn Thomasson Undergraduate Award for Excellence in Chemistry by a First-Generation College Student (\$1000): The award recognizes excellence in chemistry by a woman undergraduate student (senior) who is in the first generation of her family to go to college.
- Gladys Anderson Emerson Scholarship (\$2000): The scholarship recognizes excellence in chemistry or biochemistry by a woman undergraduate student (junior) who is a member of Iota Sigma Pi.
- Anna Louise Hoffman Award for Outstanding Achievement in Graduate Research (\$1000): The candidate must be a full-time woman graduate student. She will be judged on the strength of her research.
- Lois Jean Durham Scholarship (\$2000): The Lois Jean Durham Scholarship recognizes excellence in chemistry or biochemistry by a woman/non-binary undergraduate student. The candidate may be, but need not be, a member of ISP.

The Student award is administered by [Members-at-Large Coordinator](#).

- Members-at-Large Educational Reentry Award (\$1500): This award recognizes potential excellence in chemistry and related fields achieved by a woman at the graduate or undergraduate level who has returned to academic studies after an absence of three or more years.

Volunteer Opportunities

Mill City Museum STEM Family Day

Join the MN ACS at Mill City Museum STEM Family Day on Saturday, February 22, 2025 at 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM. The event is free. History and science come together in a day of family activities focusing on the role of STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) for the past and present. Guest organizations and museum staff will present a variety of STEM-related programs, highlighting the ways STEM affected the Minneapolis riverfront and still affects us today. <https://www.mnhs.org/events/3189>

If you are interested in volunteering at the MN ACS booth please contact [James Wollack](#); all materials and instructions are provided.

Chemists in the Library

Watch the Minnesota Local Section ACS website for details about upcoming events. If you are interested in helping as a volunteer, please get in touch with [Phil Buhlmann](#); he would be grateful to

hear from you. No preparation before events is required, and no commitment has to be made; volunteers can sign up for one event at a time.

Chemists in the Library Events 2025

February 22, 1:30 PM: Rondo Community Library 461 N Dale, St. Saint Paul, MN 55103



Twin Cities Regional Science Fair Judges

We are looking for a lead volunteer to manage and administer the MN ACS Awards for the 2025 Twin Cities Regional Science Fair on Friday, February 28 from 4:00 - 8:00 PM. Todd Williams will provide support and guidance for the lead volunteer representing the MN ACS. Please contact [Todd Williams](#) if you are interested in volunteering for this role.

For additional information about judging volunteer opportunities, please see <https://tcrsf.zfairs.com>

State Science Fair Judges

The State Science Fair for middle schools and high schools will be held on March 28 at the St. Paul River Center, Roy Wilkins Auditorium. Judging will take place from 11:00 AM to 3 PM and there is usually a judges meeting where questions are answered before that. Lunch is provided as well as coverage for the cost of parking downtown which is refunded by the MN ACS section. Students present their projects, and explain them to a judge for a few minutes, and judges tour the projects and ask a few questions. It is a lot of fun and encourages the students to keep learning and growing in STEM areas. See the [Minnesota Academy of Science website](#) for details about the 2025 State Science and Engineering Fair. We are very short of judges this year! College undergraduates with chemistry majors are also welcome to judge. Please let [Lynn Hartshorn](#) know if you could help judge.



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