

The Minnesota Chemist



Chair's Corner

Hello and Happy New Year! Our local chapter is hitting the ground running in 2022 with opportunities to engage with other members and our broader community through senior chemist events and science fair volunteer activities. There are also a number of committee chair positions open in our local section including women chemists, younger chemist, and minority affairs chairs. Please reach out to me directly at trisha@rs21.io or via the local section website if you are interested in getting involved.



Also in the newsletter you will see many opportunities to recognize your fellow chemist peers and colleagues with award nominations. Submitting a nomination is a simple process and is a nice way to acknowledge the important impacts that chemists have in our local communities.

I'm excited for the year ahead of us as we gear up for more events and activities. Stay tuned for more details about a virtual seminar in March on entrepreneurship in chemistry. As the year progresses, we hope to move toward hybrid events with both remote and in person options. Finally, please feel free to reach out to me or the other officers and committee members at any time if you have suggestions, ideas, or needs that we can support.

Trisha Miller



Updates from the Local MN ACS Section

Building Connections Between Chemists and Students

By Chuck Wheeler Handlon, MN ACS Education Chair,
chuckwheelerhandlon@gmail.com

The survival of any group depends on replacing members who are lost through attrition. This is true for the professions involving chemistry such as chemist, chemical engineer and chemistry educator. Part of my position as MN ACS Education Chair is to build the connections between chemistry professions and students who have the potential for careers in those professions.

There is a web program that can facilitate this connection. Called, [Future Forward](#), it is a free tool which is being utilized to connect industry and business professionals with educators and students. Future Forward was recently rolled out to over fifty private and public schools of southeast Minnesota including Rochester. I encourage ACS members and their companies to visit Future Forward and to consider creating a profile. Please contact me via email if you would like more information.

Developing a pool of students who might consider careers in chemistry requires that those students have access to high quality Chemistry and other STEM classes. High quality chemistry classes need quality chemistry educators. There is a growing shortage of Chemistry and STEM teachers with some positions now going unfilled. In my view, STEM Career Fairs lack the one vendor that is the most important – someone representing STEM teaching.

As ACS Education chair and a teacher retired from a 40-year career, I have made promoting STEM teaching one of the goals of my position. I attended the 10 th annual ACS Chemistry Job and Recruiting Fair on November 3rd held at St. Catherine's. I made a flyer listing the positive aspects of chemistry teaching and am willing to send that to anyone upon request. I enjoyed the opportunity to chat with a number of fine young men and women who listened and seemed to seriously consider chemistry teaching. I even met a Hamline University student from Rochester who recognized me because I had been a substitute in her chemistry class.

I am willing to visit any university or college to speak to potential chemistry teachers or to speak to chemistry departments about chemistry teaching as a potential career. Please contact me if you are a higher education chemistry professor and would like me to share my experiences at your school's career fair or with your education or chemistry department and students. Who knows, you might even have one of my former students in your class.



Senior Chemists

The Minnesota Senior Chemists Group will meet **TUESDAY MARCH 1st** in the private room of the **Downtowner Woodfire Grill** at **253 7th Street W, St Paul 55102**. (Note that this is a new location for us, recommended). There is a small parking area next to the building, which should have space at **11:30 am**, and if that should be full there is parking across the street by Dominos.

We will order from the menu.

Please read the [attached article](#) (Chemical Production Using Light: Are Sustainable Photons Cheap Enough?) so we can have a short discussion after lunch.

RSVP (Necessary) to Ken. Latham at lathamke@mac.com, by **FRIDAY FEBRUARY 25th**. (Lynn needs to call in the numbers)

We are looking forward to seeing you!



The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is now offering a \$12,000 grant to support a company active in Minnesota in hosting a Green Chemistry & Engineering Intern in summer 2022. Summaries of past projects and directions on how to apply are provided [here](#). **The application period closes March 28th, 2022.**

Green & Sustainable Chemistry Prize now offered as part of the Minnesota Cup

The MPCA is once again sponsoring a [Green & Sustainable Chemistry Prize](#) within the University of Minnesota's MN Cup program. The Prize rewards the best practice or effects of using green chemistry principles. If your technology has green chemistry features, describe them within your application to this year's [Minnesota Cup](#) competition. **The one-month application period will open in March.**



Two travel grants of \$750 each are available for graduate students to attend the spring ACS meeting in **San Diego March 20-24th**.

Application materials are available [here](#).

Note that you must already be registered for the national meeting to apply. Applications must be submitted electronically to yaoux006@umn.edu by **March 7th** at noon.

If you have difficulty downloading the application, try a different browser.

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One \$500 travel grant for faculty at a liberal arts or community college in the areas served by our section is available for the spring ACS National Meeting in **San Diego March 20-24<sup>th</sup>**.

Application materials are available [here](#).

Note that you must already be registered for the national meeting to apply.

Applications must be submitted electronically to [yaoux006@umn.edu](mailto:yaoux006@umn.edu) by **March 1<sup>st</sup>** at noon.

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## Call for 202 MN ACS Awards Nominations

### 2022 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 \$200 which will be presented at the May meeting of the section. Nominations should be emailed to [Ramesh C. Kumar](mailto:Ramesh.C.Kumar), Chair MN ACS Awards Committee, on or before **March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022**.

### 2022 Minnesota High School Chemistry Teaching Award

In 2022 the section will recognize an outstanding high school chemistry teacher with the Award for Excellence in High School Chemistry Teaching. The most recent awards, in 1995, 1998, 2001, 2004, 2007, 2010, 2013, 2016 and 2018 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 and Cassandra Knutson of White Bear Lake High School.

The nominee must be engaged in the teaching of chemistry of high school (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; and (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 \$500 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](mailto:Ramesh.C.Kumar), Chair MN ACS Awards Committee on or before **March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022**.

## 2022 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 \$200 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<sup>th</sup>, 2022**.

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## 34th Annual Winchell Undergraduate Research Symposium

### Minnesota Academy of Science

April 23<sup>rd</sup> - Hamlin University

The Winchell Undergraduate Research Symposium prepares college students from across Minnesota and nearby states to enter STEM fields by providing a forum to present their research, explore graduate school and career options, and to learn from peers and STEM professionals. More detailed information can be found at the flyer attached [here](#). Learn more and register at <https://www.mnmas.org/about-winchell-research-symposium>.

All undergraduate students in MN and nearby states engaged in original research are welcome to attend.

2022 Schedule (subject to change)

8:45 am Welcome & Keynote Address  
10:15-12:00 Breakout Sessions  
12:00-12:45 Box Lunch  
12:45-2:15 Oral Student Research Presentations  
2:15-3:45 Student Research Poster Sessions  
3:45-4:00 Refreshments  
4:00-4:15 Closing Remarks & Awards

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