

The Minnesota Chemist



Chair's Corner

Happy September! I hope everyone had a wonderful summer and is ready for fall. While MN Chemist paused for the summer, the impact of MNACS did not. Over the course of the summer, our section hosted events and sponsored a variety of activities. I hope you enjoy learning more about them throughout the rest of this newsletter.

As we enter the fall season, your Executive Committee is hard at work planning the remainder of the year, with events designed to continue building our chemistry community and fostering engagement. For those who traveled to the ACS Fall Meeting in Chicago, I hope it was a rewarding trip and that you were able to share your research, network with fellow ACS members, and enjoy the excitement of ACS.



If you have ideas for events or want to get more involved with our local section, feel free to reach out.

Be on the lookout for upcoming events this fall, and I hope to see many of you there!

Andy Tangen
Chair 2026

ACS MN Local Section News

Event Recap: Tour of Andersen Windows

On May 26th, the Andersen Windows & Doors Bayport facility generously hosted the MN ACS local chapter for an engaging evening tour of their manufacturing site, along with the opportunity for networking over dinner. The journey from raw materials to finished products offered a fascinating look at chemistry and materials science in action on a scale spanning nearly 50 football fields. Good thing they provided a ride for that journey!

A tour highlight was learning about Andersen's composite materials and their use of reclaimed materials while maintaining the performance and durability expected from the final product. Another favorite for our group was seeing the profile extruding lines in action, where a continuous polymer extrusion seamlessly coats wood cores in a weather-resistant outer layer of molten vinyl. These firsthand experiences made it easy to appreciate how closely chemistry, materials science, engineering, manufacturing, and quality are connected.

The evening was a great opportunity to step outside the laboratory, see chemistry and materials science at work, connect with fellow ACS members, and learn more about a local industry leader. Events like this are a great reminder of the value of getting out into industry and seeing where our field can take us.



Event Recap: MN ACS Awards Banquet

In June, the Minnesota Local Section of the American Chemical Society (ACS) hosted a highly successful Awards Committee event at the 3M Innovation Center, bringing together 65 attendees including area academic and industrial chemists, students from the University of Minnesota and other regional colleges and universities.

Prior to the formal program, attendees enjoyed a guided tour of the 3M Innovation Center, which was widely appreciated for its fascinating insight into cutting edge industrial technologies.

The highlight of the evening was keynote speaker **Dr. Jerry Rasmussen**, recipient of the **2026 Minnesota Chemist Award**. Dr. Rasmussen was recognized for his ground-breaking work in developing a platform of products that significantly advanced the purification of biological therapeutics for pharmaceutical companies. He delivered an insightful presentation titled *"Innovation at the Interface: An Industrial Chemist's Journey at the Nexus of Synthesis, Surface Functionalization, and Biology."*

Additionally, the section honored **Dr. Todd Williams** with the **2026 Lyle Hall and Janet Tarino Volunteer Award**, recognizing his extraordinary dedication and ongoing volunteer service to the local ACS section.

In addition, special recognition was given to dedicated members who reached impressive milestones, with certificates awarded to **50- and 60-year ACS members** to honor their decades of commitment to the chemical enterprise and society.

Thank you everyone who attended, toured and made this year's event a memorable celebration of chemistry and community leadership.

Ramesh C. Kumar
Chair, MN ACS Awards Committee



Event Recap: 5th Annual Midwest Retreat for Pathways in Chemistry

The 5th Annual Midwest Retreat for Pathways in Chemistry (MWRPC) was held June 19–21, 2026, at Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa. The three-day retreat brought together undergraduate students, graduate students, faculty, and industry professionals from across the Midwest for scientific exchange, professional development, and networking.

The program featured research poster sessions, career panels, interactive workshops, and keynote presentations that encouraged participants to build technical skills, explore career pathways, and foster new collaborations. Beyond the science, the retreat created an inclusive environment where attendees could connect with peers and mentors, share experiences, and strengthen their professional networks.

The support from the Minnesota Local Section of the American Chemical Society helped make this event possible. We sincerely appreciate the Minnesota ACS Small Grant and thank the Section for investing in opportunities that promote scientific engagement, mentorship, and the development of the next generation of chemists.

Sandra Nwankwo
2026 MWRPC Planning Committee



Event Recap: Resume Workshop

The Younger Chemists Committee (YCC) had about 15 early career chemists join us in June for a resume workshop and some coffee and pastries at Spyhouse Coffee. We discussed tips for crafting effective resumes tailored to job applications that will best represent you and your skills and enjoyed a sunny summer Saturday morning outdoors despite the wind. Thank you to everyone who joined and a huge thanks to our volunteer facilitators – Annabelle Watts and Erica Ratner from UMN! Be on the lookout for future YCC events!

Allison Smith
Younger Chemists Committee



Event Recap: 30th Annual Associated Colleges of the Twin Cities Symposium

On July 22, six local undergraduate institutions celebrated 30 YEARS of gathering chemistry faculty and students at the annual ACTC research symposium. The event gives students the opportunity to meet and share chemistry with their peers and faculty colleagues the chance to reconnect and share ideas. This year, it was hosted by the [University of St. Thomas](#) and there were over 140 attendees.

Five chemistry and biochemistry majors from the different institutions gave oral presentations on their research to the large crowd, followed by 56 research poster presentations, including one with 3D-printed models!

Thank you to [Ron Brisbois](#) for a special introduction with the full history of the event and to MNACS for sponsoring this great day of chemistry!

Lisa E. Prevette, Ph.D
Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry
University of St. Thomas



Volunteer Opportunities

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 2026

- October 17, 1:30 pm: Heritage Library
- November 14, 1:30 pm: Kalposia Library
- December 5, 1:30 pm: Wentworth Library

Volunteer Opportunities - Get Involved!

Are you looking to enhance your leadership, project management, and networking skills? Volunteering for the Minnesota Local Section of the ACS is a fantastic way to grow professionally while making a meaningful impact!

We are currently seeking passionate leaders for the following committees:

- **Public Affairs** – serves as a bridge between the chemistry community and policymakers, advocating for science-related policies and engaging the public on key issues.
- **Government Affairs** – plays a key role in advocating for science policy and fostering relationships between the chemistry community and government officials.
- **Minority Affairs** – plays a key role in promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) within the Minnesota Local Section of the American Chemical Society (ACS).

If you're interested in learning more, please reach out to [Andy Tangen](#) to explore these opportunities.

Take the next step in your leadership journey—get involved today!



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