

Fall National ACS Meeting held in Philadelphia PA

At the Fall National Meeting in Philadelphia TECH held a half-day symposium that focused on how industries and educational institutions (middle schools, high schools, and colleges) can create linkages. Co-sponsored with WCC, The symposium also addressed mentoring programs. The seven speakers presented a wide variety of topics of concern and of interest to women in chemical technology professions. Twenty+ participants for this session.

Mary Moore introduced the audience to the National Girls Collaborative Project, which is funded by the National Science Foundation. The NGCP seeks to maximize and strengthen resources, organizations and programs which support STEM education and careers for young women. She spoke about the NGCP program directory and the mini grants that the local collaboratives will administer. Ms. Moore is a member of the leadership team for the GRITS (Girls Raised In Tennessee Science) Collaborative.

Sharon Vercellotti also talked about the NGCP mini grant program. She pointed out the value of collaboration and of sharing resources. The Chlorine Chapter of Iota sigma Pi of Louisiana partnered with the Girl Scouts on a one day science badge workshop. The Brownie and Junior girl scouts attended with professional and student Iota Sigma Pi members serving as mentors. This was a perfect example of collaboration and the leveraging of resources to support girls in STEM.

Judith Iriarte-Gross talked about the importance of mentoring undergraduate and graduate women in chemistry. She credited Donna Dean, past president of AWIS for the phrase, "Move Up, Reach Down," and how these four words struck a chord about mentoring and being mentored. Judith discussed programs such as GRITS and WISE, on her campus, which provide young women with the skills that are not taught in the classroom yet, are necessary for success in a chemical technology profession.

Cacy DeSheles, Jabe Kiri, Katie McKnight and Alexis Schaible are members of the Middle Tennessee State University WISE student organization. They discussed how they have established a close and fruitful mentoring relationship with women scientists and engineers at Eastman Chemical Company in Kingsport TN. WISE members were inspired by this relationship to "Move Up Reach Down" to middle school girls in the community. This talk focused on the activities and experiences of WISE with their protégés.

Renee' Brown of Bayer Material Science talked about "shift work" and its prevalence in the chemical industry. She pointed out the job performance, safety, health and family life can suffer as a result of shift work. In this talk, she focused on how companies can take specific measures to improve the shift work lifestyle of its employees.

Debbie Bailey of Dow Corning Corporation explained how microcopy is a valuable tool for the characterization of materials. She defined microscopy for the uninitiated and gave some examples of practical applications. Microscopy is an indispensable tool which helps researchers understand properties of materials. The take home message of this talk was to know what you are looking for so that you can choose the right tool and analytical technique.

John Engelman closed the symposium with a presentation on "ACS Resources For Your Career." He talked about the many valuable resources that ACS offers to its members at all stages along their career path. He discussed resume preparation and review, job search help and how to become an ACS volunteer.

Two workshops that were held in Philadelphia These workshops were created based on requests from members at previous national meetings.

“Tell-Tale Heart” of the ACS National Meetings...How to Host a Symposium! Speaker: Wendy Mallory-Klein

Bragging Rights Speaker: Ann Marie Walker

“Nobody will think you’re somebody if you don’t think so yourself”

Over 20 participants added to these workshops.

The Division also provided a leadership training workshop for Technician Affiliate Group Officers at the fall meeting. The workshop covered what Technician Affiliate Groups do at the local level and what support services are available, from ACS. We also discussed their needs and encouraged using the network in and around the ACS.