

To: Executive Committee members, Division of Chemical Technicians  
Members of the Committee on Technician Affairs

From: Mary Moore, Chair, Applied Chemical Technology Professionals Summit organizing committee

Re: Applied Chemical Technology Professionals Summit

The words participants used to describe the Applied Chemical Technology Professionals Summit held this past weekend included "optimistic," "hopeful," "excited," and "future." It was a weekend filled with challenging discussion and great thinking about the future. A complete report on the Summit will be completed by early next year, but we wanted to share some of the highlights.

The participants included Tom Lane, the current ACS President-elect, representatives from CTA, TECH, DAC, WCC, YCC, CEPA, and ACS staff from various departments. All engaged in a discussion of topics ranging from a description of an Applied Chemical Technology Professional to the Environment of Applied Chemistry in 2015 to the characteristics of the Applied Chemistry Practitioner in 2015.

Key issues/concerns/needs that were identified included:

- Job security
- Keeping skills current—both technical and soft skills
- Work/life balance
- Balance of working independently and in teams
- Oral and written communication skills

Potential core solutions to these challenges included:

- Continuing education that is accessible and affordable and includes technical education in areas such as engineering, biology and biotech, nanotechnology, and informatics.
- Mentoring that emphasizes career and leadership development as well as work/life balance.
- Networking opportunities to foster job-specific and global opportunities

Some of the most significant barriers that discourage use of current ACS programs, products, and services were identified as communication, perceived value of existing benefits, lack of marketing, and cost.

To begin to address the issues, solutions, and barriers the following actions were proposed for ACS to initiate in 2009:

- Engage in relationship building with industry through Corporation Associates and the Division of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry.
- Participate in Regional Programming.
- Incorporate networking opportunities, mentoring, and continuing education into the initiatives with CA and the regions.
- Catalogue tech-relevant ACS professional development offerings and communicate to appropriate audience.
- Recommend a single entity at the national Society level to focus all efforts directed to the technician community. To initiate this action, a study will take place to consider the implications and consequences of dissolving the Division of Chemical Technicians with the goal of having the Committee on Chemical Technicians become that primary entity.

The organizing committee will follow up with these recommendations and action items to create a plan for implementation that will be discussed during TECH, CTA, and other meetings in Salt Lake City in March.