

To TECH and CTA

“Fifteen ACS members and nine staff gathered this past weekend at the Applied Chemical Technology Professionals Summit. The conversation was lively and the results are noteworthy. A full report on the weekend’s discussions and decisions will be available by early February. Until then, please see the attached summary of the weekend’s conversations. We want you to be aware of the recommendations from the participants and welcome your comments and suggestions. We anticipate holding a conference call with the organizing committee to debrief the meeting in mid-January and establish a timeline for implementation. Further discussion will take place in Salt Lake City. You will be advised of the progress of the initiative.”

To organizing committee (Richard Cobb, John Engelman, Mike Mautino, Kristen Hayslip, Deb Bailey, Mary Moore, Jodi Wesemann, Blake Aronson, and Kathleen Thompson. Barbara Moriarty joined as the DAC liaison to TECH)

“Thank you for the tremendous effort and energy expended over the last several months in preparation for this past weekend’s Applied Chemical Technology Professionals Summit. Those of you who were present know that the conversation was lively and the results noteworthy. We anticipate that drafts of the full report on the weekend’s discussions and decisions will be available by mid-January and the completed final report by early February. For the present, please see the attached summary of the weekend’s conversations. . Further discussion will take place in Salt Lake City at the regularly scheduled meetings of CTA and TECH.”

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.