OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to seek your chemistry department's support for an issue of great importance to me: K-12 education. Recent reports such as *Rising above the Gathering Storm* and *A National Action Plan for Addressing the Critical Needs of the U.S. Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Education System* indicate that America's continued competiveness depends on its ability to meet the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education needs of all learners.

Chemistry plays a pivotal role in STEM education. Yet, a 2007 report by the American Association of Employment in Education indicated that there is a considerable shortage of highly qualified high school chemistry teachers in our nation. This shortage compromises our capacity to meet the STEM education needs of all learners, to create a scientifically-literate citizenry, and to produce the chemistry workforce of tomorrow.

The American Chemical Society (ACS) and its Society Committee on Education (SOCED) recognize the critical role of the chemistry community in preparing the high school chemistry teachers of tomorrow. To indicate its commitment to this issue of national importance, SOCED has endorsed the statement below on Pre-Service Education.

We invite your department of chemistry to join ACS and chemistry departments nationwide in supporting the pre-service education of K-12 science teachers by endorsing the following statement. To indicate your support, please submit a brief message from your chemistry department chair or equivalent to ctec@acs.org. Together we can build the chemistry community needed to better prepare the K-12 science teachers of tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Thomas H. Lane, Ph.D.
President
American Chemical Society