

Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs (CEPA)

245th ACS National Meeting
New Orleans, LA
April 10, 2013

Madame President, Members of Council and Guests:

[SLIDE 1]

The unemployment rate for all ACS chemists is 4.2% as of March 2012. However, the unemployment rate for new graduates as measured in August 2012 in chemistry is down slightly, but still three times greater, at 12.6%. The Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs (CEPA) is especially distressed about the plight of new graduates, postdocs and long-term unemployed workers. CEPA continues to develop and deliver programs for these most affected groups.

[SLIDE 2]

Demand for workers in the U.S., including chemists, remains weak. Starting salaries are one measure of demand for new chemistry graduates. As shown, the greatest demand for graduating chemists is in product development. The areas of management and professional services are also higher than average. Traditional career paths like industrial research and academic employment show weaker demand.

[SLIDE 3]

The difference in median salaries for newly graduated women and men remains high at \$6000, but modest gains in parity can be seen when compared with figures from 2011. Unfortunately, the lessening of this gap has more to do with falling salaries for men than gains in women's salaries.

[SLIDE 4]

On a happier note, applications are now being accepted for the ACS Entrepreneurial Training Program and the ACS Entrepreneurial Resources Center. Both programs are receiving rave reviews from program participants, and ACS members considering an entrepreneurial career are encouraged to apply. The application window closes on May 28th.

[SLIDE 5]

At this time, I would like to draw your attention to the Academic Professional Guidelines, on page 67 of your Agenda Book. This document was presented for your consideration in Philadelphia. Madame President, this document is ready for Council action, CPC concurs and I so move.

[SLIDE 6]

Thank you for your vote.

Statistics for the ACS Career Fair and the Virtual Career Fair at this meeting are shown on the screen. The number of employers on site is down slightly from Philadelphia. The addition of the virtual component

granted access to more than 500 additional job seekers, and 11 additional employers.

31 workshops and hundreds of mock interviews and resume reviews, as well as 4 live webinar events were conducted at this meeting.

Madame President this concludes my report.