

Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs (CEPA)

248th ACS National Meeting
San Francisco, CA
August 13, 2014

Mister President, Members of Council and Guests:

[SLIDE 1]

The unemployment rate for all ACS chemists has dropped from 3.5% in March 2013 to 2.9% as of March 2014. However, the unemployment rate for new chemistry graduates as of August 2013 is considered to be at an all-time high of 14.6%. This number is even higher when we isolate bachelor's level graduates for whom the rate is 15.8%.

Late last year, ACS Past President Marinda Wu appointed the Presidential Task Force "Vision 2025: Helping ACS Members to Thrive in the Global Chemistry Enterprise." One of the recommendations of the task force was to investigate the supply and demand of chemists relative to jobs. To address this recommendation, a new Task Force was formed. Their official report will be published later this year.

[SLIDE 2]

The key finding from the report is that the production of bachelor's degree chemists by U.S. institutions has outpaced demand. The surplus started in 2008 corresponding with the beginning of the Great Recession, and the number of bachelor's degrees granted continues to ramp up. In contrast,

the production of masters and Ph.D. chemists in the U.S. has remained relatively constant and in line with demand. Our focus for assistance must be directed to bachelors-level graduates.

[SLIDE 3]

To better address the career and employment development needs of our members, CEPA is assessing the current portfolio of programs and services available from ACS. This effort corresponds with the Board's newly launched Society Program Portfolio Management initiative.

[SLIDE 4]

Career and professional advancement tools available from the Society continue to be added to the new ACS Career Navigator. A promotional campaign has been launched for the navigator including new branding, blogs, social media, print materials, and a website.

[SLIDE 5]

At this time, I would like to draw your attention to the Professional Employment Guidelines, on pages 80 to 87 of your Agenda Book. This document was presented for your consideration in Indianapolis. Mister 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. Additionally, resume reviews, mock interviews, business plan pitch reviews, and Career Navigator workshops were conducted during the meeting.

Mister President this concludes my report.