Committee on Project SEED

Boston, MA, August 2015

Madam President, Members of the Board, and Fellow Councilors,

This year marks the 47th year of Project SEED. The program has provided research opportunities to nearly 10,000 students from low-income families. I am pleased to report another successful Project SEED program in 2015 with the participation of 411 high school students of whom 307 are Summer I and104 are Summer II. These students are currently placed in over 100 laboratories across the nation, under the supervision of over 400 volunteer scientists and coordinators in 39 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. As a result of establishing the Geographic Expansion Subcommittee in 2013, in summer 2015 five new states, Alaska, Hawaii, Nevada, North Dakota, and Utah held a Project SEED program.

The Committee awarded 32 first year non-renewable College Scholarships to Project SEED alumni from 17 states and Puerto Rico.

At this meeting the Committee adopted new rubrics for the selection of college scholarships, and revised and approved new language for the ChemLuminary self-nomination questionnaire. In addition, the Committee voted to establish a Taskforce that will develop a plan to increase the fellowship and scholarship awards.

On Monday evening, twenty-four high school students from the Central New York, Indiana, New York, Northeastern, North Jersey, and Trenton Local Sections presented posters of their research at SciMix.

The contributions of local sections to Project SEED are also evident at this meeting. Yesterday evening, the Committee presented the ChemLuminary award to the 2014 Outstanding ACS Project SEED Program to the Chemical Society of Washington.

Two thousand eighteen will mark the 50th anniversary of Project SEED and the Committee has set an ambitious goal to expand the program to all fifty states. But, to continue to expand the educational opportunities for high school students across the nation, more volunteers and additional funding will be necessary to support the program. The Committee hopes to count on your generous support. Please donate to Project SEED by using the dues check-off option on your ACS membership renewal. Thank you for your support and for making a difference.

Madam President this concludes my report.

Anna Cavinato, Chair