Women Chemists Committee

Oral Report to Council

Women Chemists Committee

Denver, CO

August 31, 2011

Madam President and Members of Council:

At this meeting, the Women Chemists Committee (WCC) has continued the celebration of the International Year of Chemistry with programming to highlight the contributions of women to science in honor of the 100th anniversary of Madame Marie Curie’s Nobel Prize in Chemistry. On Monday morning at the Women in Industry breakfast, the WCC hosted Hilary Domush of the Chemical Heritage Foundation who spoke on the legend of Marie Curie and her impact on women chemists in the 21st century. On Monday evening, a poster session was held as part of Sci-Mix featuring local WCC sections sharing their own IYC 2011 activities.

In the continuing effort to attract women into the chemical sciences through several established student award programs, the committee recognized eight WCC/Eli Lilly Travel awardees, and the 2011 Overcoming Challenges Award winner. The WCC also wishes to congratulate the recipient of this year’s ChemLuminary Award for Outstanding Outreach to Girls in Elementary Education, the South Carolina Local Section.

The WCC has been actively pursuing opportunities for recognition of women to promote their retention in the chemical enterprise. In 2012, as part of our 85th Anniversary celebration, we are initiating the “WCC Rising Star Award” to be given annually to ten outstanding women scientists approaching mid-level careers who have made significant contributions in their respective fields. Please look for more information on this initiative later this year.

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In another exciting initiative aimed at helping women scientists develop new professional skills, the WCC has collaborated with these partners to become the Chemical Entrepreneurship Council (CEC). This self-organized working group is concerned with providing the resources and skills necessary for chemists to translate research into innovations which can become commercial products. The outputs for the CEC decided at the Denver meeting include education and training, a roadmap to inventory resources, and outreach for member engagement. To highlight the importance of entrepreneurship, the WCC hosted two successful women entrepreneurs at our luncheon on Tuesday, Kathryn Hach-Darrow and Judy Giordan, who shared their success stories with us.

Madam President and Members of Council, this concludes my report.