Committee on Project SEED

Report

Philadelphia, August 2016

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

Project SEED was established in 1968 and since its inception has provided opportunities for summer research to more than 10,000 students across the nation. This summer 421 high school students were placed in over 120 academic, governmental, and industrial laboratories under the supervision of nearly 400 volunteer scientists. This outstanding participation is made possible by contributions from industry, academia, local sections, ACS friends and members, and the Project SEED Endowment.

At this meeting the Committee addressed safety concerns related to the potential use of nanoparticles in projects involving Project SEED students. A link to the recently developed Chemical Safety Manual and the Committee on Chemical Safety site, which addresses nanoparticle safety, will be included in the application as well as in the award letter sent to coordinators.

The Committee developed an assessment rubric for reviewing the Ciba Specialty Chemicals Scholarships.

In order to encourage a broader base for ChemLuminary nominations, the Committee approved to modify the existing language in Forms Online reporting Management System (FORMS) and clarify that small, medium, and large programs are all eligible for self-nominations. In addition, the rubric used to evaluate the nominations will be made available in FORMS.

The Committee appointed volunteers as liaisons to Local Section Activities Committee, Younger Chemist Committee, and Corporation Associates in order to farther promote the Project SEED program. A task force was formed that will be organizing the events for the upcoming 50th Anniversary celebrations in 2018.

On Monday evening, thirty-three high school students from the Minnesota, Maryland, Georgia, Puerto Rico, Nebraska, Northeastern, North Jersey, and New York Local Sections presented posters of their research at SciMix.

The Committee continues its commitment to work on strategies to expand the educational opportunities for high school students across the nation, improve awareness among potential donors and mentors to increase funding for the program, and increase the number of volunteers. The committee encourages all members to continue using the dues check-off option on their ACS membership renewal to support this remarkable program.

Madam President this concludes my report.

Anna G. Cavinato, Chair