

**Chemists With Disabilities Committee**  
Oral Report to Council  
254th ACS National Meeting, Washington, DC  
August 23, 2017

Madame President and Members of Council,

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The Chemists with Disabilities Committee (CWD) promotes chemistry educational and professional opportunities for persons with disabilities. CWD leverages its resources for impact beyond the community of chemists with disabilities, for the betterment of ACS and society as a whole.

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- I. CWD initiated a travel award to bring a student/postdoc to ACS National Meetings. Our first awardee, Dr. Amie Norton, recently earned her PhD in Chemistry. Amie proposed, obtained funding, and executes the “One Discovery Leads to Another” workshop which is designed to excite in-coming high school freshman about the wonderful world of chemistry. As a graduate student she has one patent and six invention disclosures on file with the University of Cincinnati’s Intellectual Property Office.

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- II. CWD promotes the capabilities of persons with disabilities with its famous scientists with disabilities posters. These posters are displayed throughout various venues at ACS national meetings. CWD also has bookmarks and posters suitable for classroom use. By displaying these posters in schools, we encourage youngsters, with and without disabilities, to overcome life’s hurdles and to achieve their full potential.

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- III. Partnering with non-ACS entities permits CWD to further leverage our resources. The American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) has invited CWD to help them duplicate the Chemists with

Disabilities Committee in their organization. As one becomes two and two becomes four, etc., we envision a time when many scientific and non-scientific organizations create sister organizations to promote the capabilities of persons with disabilities.

- IV. Efforts to implement accessibility for those with disabilities extend benefits far beyond the disabilities community. CWD championed the use of closed captioning in many ACS produced videos and Communication Access Real-time Translation (CART) at meetings to increase the accessibility for those with hearing challenges. The benefits of these efforts are far reaching.

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- a. A study conducted by Oregon State University surveyed more than 2000 students from 15 colleges and indicated that 98% of students feel that closed captioning is helpful to them. Frequently cited benefits include improved accuracy, increased engagement, increased comprehension and improved retention.

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- V. CWD is working on integrating technologies to develop a universally accessible remote conferencing capability to permit CWD members with visual, hearing, and motor-skills disabilities to participate in conference calls between national meetings. When successful, the benefits will extend far beyond the ACS Chemists with Disabilities Committee.

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By supporting the community of persons with disabilities, CWD will continue to make life better universally for us all.

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