Committee on Project SEED

Report

Washington DC, August 2017

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

Project SEED is celebrating its 49th year. To this day the program has impacted nearly 10,600 economically disadvantaged high school students across the nation. This summer 415 high school students are completing research experiences that may have a significant impact on their life and future careers. These students are currently placed in over 120 academic, governmental, and industrial laboratories under the supervision of nearly 400 volunteer scientists in 37 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. This outstanding participation is made possible by contributions from industry, academia, local sections, ACS friends and members, and the Project SEED Endowment.

The Committee awarded three new Ciba Scholarships to ACS Project SEED Scholars for the 2017-2020 academic years.

At this meeting the Committee discussed issues associated with the amount of matching funds provided by local sections or hosting institutions. To ensure that the program provides as many opportunities to students across the nation, the committee will request that established programs provide at least 50% matching funds.

On Monday evening, thirty-nine high school students from the following local sections: Chemical Society of Washington, Georgia, Maryland, Memphis, New York, North Jersey, Trenton, and Washington-Idaho Border presented posters of their research at SciMix.

Yesterday evening the Committee presented the ChemLuminary award to the 2016 Outstanding ACS Project SEED Program to Puerto Rico Local Section.

As the 50th anniversary of the program approaches in 2018, 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. I would like to remind all members that you can support this remarkable program by providing financial support to your local SEED program and continuing to use the dues check-off option on the ACS membership renewal.

As my term as chair of the committee comes to an end, I would like to thank the ACS, the staff, donors and the many volunteer mentors and coordinators for their support. This has been a very challenging and fulfilling personal experience and I look forward to continuing my involvement with the program as a mentor. I have witnessed the personal growth and the increased desire for learning that students involved in this program develop. Therefore, I know that we make a difference.

Madam President this concludes my report.

Anna G. Cavinato, Chair