**Committee on Chemists with Disabilities**

Council Oral Report

256th ACS National Meeting, Boston, MA

August 2018

Mr. President and Members of Council,

The American Chemical Society Committee on Chemists with Disabilities (CWD) envisions a future where all individuals have opportunities to advance the chemical sciences by drawing on the full range of their talents.

ACS CWD Members met Saturday from 2:30 to 6:30 for a strategy meeting and dinner where several breakout groups discussed what they would like to accomplish in accordance with our goals and strategies.

The outputs from this meeting in the form of project updates were discussed at our full day committee meeting on Sunday.

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The committee welcomed our second recipient of the CWD Travel Award at the Boston meeting. Shahjada Shahrear is presenting his work as an undergraduate at the Borough of Manhattan Community College, City University of NY in a poster and oral presentation.

This is Shahjada’s first ACS national meeting.

The purpose of the ACS-CWD Travel Award is to encourage the participation of undergraduate, graduate students and post-docs with disabilities who will present a talk or poster at the ACS National Meeting. Up to $3,000 is awarded per recipient. The application deadline for the spring national meeting in Orlando is December 15, 2018.

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The CWD ChemLuminary award recognizes the outstanding effort of a local section that has a program designed to increase the participation of people with disabilities in the world of chemistry.

The award also recognizes events to help educators, advocates and families of persons with disabilities.

The committee is looking for outstanding events that demonstrate pertinence to the CWD mission through activities that are accessible to the target audience and have a strong program impact at the local level.

We urge local section and division leads to look for programs that may fit the award criteria.

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In order to promote awareness of chemistry students and professionals with disabilities as well as share best practices for teaching chemistry to students with disabilities, content will be developed and delivered via our CWD YouTube channel.

CWD aims to model “what success looks like” for students and educators with unique content from ACS symposia and committee member video profiles.

A promotional video highlighting the goals and objectives of CWD was previewed at our Saturday meeting in Boston.

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Speaking for all members of CWD, we are proud to be members of the American Chemical Society and appreciate the opportunity to advance the goals and objectives of ACS by leveraging our committee member’s unique perspectives. Thank you.

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