Council Committee on Project SEED

Don Warner, Chair

 San Diego, August 2019

Madam President and members of Council:

The Committee on Project SEED is ambitiously building towards the next 50 years of Project SEED. In June, several members of the committee, along with representatives from SOCED, LSAC, AACT, and IAC, met to develop a new strategic plan. Our new vision is “empowering students through transformative research experiences” and our mission is “to ensure the quality, sustainability, and growth of the Project SEED Programs”. To support our mission, we developed three goals.

The first goal is to foster sustainability of Project SEED. Strategies include piloting and launching flexible program models for SEED research students and working with ACS Development to ensure a strong financial future. The second goal is to identify and establish working relationships with stakeholders and promote growth. This will be achieved through targeted and strategic marketing. The third goal is to identify, implement, and promote essential elements of a high quality SEED program. We will update the underlying technology platform, improve assessment strategies, and actively promote sharing of best practices amongst mentors and coordinators.

This year, the committee approved projects at 143 academic, government, and industrial laboratories doing meaningful chemistry research across the US. To the right, you will see a heat map representative of our 454 SEED students, which we think is a record number. The darker colored states/territories indicate higher numbers of participants. We are incredibly thankful for the many local sections, universities, corporations, individuals, and grants that contributed over $384K of matching funding – an increase of more than 10% compared to 2018.

This year was also a productive fundraising year. The 50 Forward Campaign successfully brought the endowment to $8.78 MM with an additional $1.39 MM in estate intentions. The program also received an unanticipated bequest of $500K from the estate of 78-year long ACS member, Joseph D. Loconti. Some of the funds will be used to create a new scholarship endowment and the very first Loconti Scholar was selected this summer. The remaining funds will be used for Project SEED programming initiatives.

To keep the momentum, we are actively engaging local sections and councilors. Please continue to use the Project SEED check-off option when renewing your ACS membership. We also encourage you to work with your local section to discover multiple methods of supporting SEED programs in your area. Please volunteer to host SEED activities, including poster sessions, career panels, college readiness workshops, or anything else. Learn more during our webinar on September 10th. The registration link is provided here on the slide.

Lastly, we would like to acknowledge our Outstanding 2018 Project SEED Program, the New York Local Section.

This concludes my report.

Don Warner