

Oral Report to Council
President-Elect Allison A. Campbell
March 16, 2016

Madam President and fellow Members of Council:

I am deeply honored to be standing here as President-Elect. This first quarter of 2016 has been a busy and educational time; I've been able to participate in Board and Committee activities; meet monthly with ACS Staff, participate in the ACS Leadership Institute, and talk directly with Members. Though just getting started, I can report that the topical areas, special projects, and targeted Presidential symposia are taking shape.

As I've discussed, the three themes of Science Advocacy; Science Literacy; and Chemistry as a global enterprise will guide my term. Under Science Advocacy I have been thinking about capitalizing on National Chemistry Week 2017 to hold a special event, "Chemistry on the Hill" as a forum to increase the visibility that chemistry has had on society. It is vital that we increase Congress' appreciation of chemistry's contributions to our way of life -- and the critical role federal research funding plays in future innovations. Federal support is important for us all -- whether we come from academia, industry, national labs, or other institutions. The bottom line is this: investments in chemistry — investments in science — are down payments on future prosperity.

The second project-based initiative is in the area of science literacy. Here, I am thinking about a communication program that can be used as a module within the Leadership Development System and used at the annual Leadership Institute, and regional meetings to provide scientists the skills, tools and techniques to talk about their work to the general public. In term of addressing global issues, I am thinking about a Summit to bring together the international chemical societies to talk about, highlight and share best practices around safety, environmental stewardship and ethics. As students and the general workforce move around globally, the importance of a common framework for safety, chemical and waste stream management, and the ethics of the scientific endeavor is in great need.

Finally, my Presidential symposia will be heavily scientifically focused and highlight the accomplishments of our members while demonstrating how we are "Improving people's lives through the transforming power of chemistry". Topics under consideration include:

"Energy for a Low Carbon Future: Grand Challenges for Chemistry"
"The Chemistry of our Earth: Mitigating Environmental Impacts"

These symposia are to bring together both early career and nationally renowned scientists to highlight the new science that is being done to address these complex issues.

In closing, let me tell you again how honored I am to be here with all of you. As I said a year ago, we can and must work together to improve the ACS and make its voice clearer, louder, and more effective. Please continue to share your ideas and suggestions with me, and contact me at a.campbell@acs.org.

Madam President, this concludes my report.