

Peter K. Dorhout
President
Oral Report to Council
Wednesday, March 21, 2018

Good morning fellow councilors. Our meeting today begins on a day 300 years following the founding of Nouvelle Orleans, along the banks of a river that drains one of the largest watersheds in the world, covering 1.2 million square miles. I honor that founding, and our former councilor Jack Stocker, with my Mardi Gras bow tie. Within this Mississippi watershed are grown 92% of the nation's agricultural exports, and over 500 million tons of goods per year are shipped along the river, including food, petroleum, and coal. The Mississippi discharges on average 4.5 million gallons of water per second into the Gulf of Mexico. We are at the nexus of food, energy, and water, right where we sit today.

I hope you had the opportunity to enjoy the hard work and great programing provided by our members and guests around these themes. It was my pleasure to support or organize sessions to share best practices in, for example, Science Cafés, discussions on water and the environment, and begin a critical dialog, led by the Women Chemists Committee, around sexual harassment in our learning and professional settings. ACS needs to continue to create and embrace an inclusive environment for its members.

(Slide 1)

Inclusiveness is also being celebrated this year with the 50th anniversary of Project SEED and my continuing campaign to promote the outstanding contributions to the chemical sciences by our nearly 3,000 ACS Scholars alumni. On my first slide, you will see a screen shot of the improved Scholars website, which now highlights two alumni each week, promoting them through social media and featuring them in our virtual yearbook of SEED and Scholars alumni. I am proud to share my passion for this outstanding mentoring program with you.

Safety is recognized among our Society's core values. In early February, I had the honor to gather 30 kindred spirits to identify what ACS needs to do to promote an ethos of safety – please refer to the goals of the Summit in my second slide.

(Slide 2)

This first Safety Summit brought together stakeholders in and outside ACS to discuss ways in which members can advance this core value of safety, particularly within our colleges and universities. Over the remaining months of this year, I will be sharing the outcomes of this Summit with committees, divisions, and other stakeholder groups to act on safety.

In my opinion, no other activity can have a greater impact on renewing the public trust in science and chemistry than demonstrating that its practitioners care about people. No other activity can have a greater impact on diversifying our professionals than creating an inclusive and safe working environment for everyone. No other activity can prepare our students to be the change agents we expect than to instill in them an ethos of safety.

Fellow councilors, thank you for all you do for our members. This concludes my report.

Approximately \$900,000 in scholarship funds are awarded to 350 students annually



www.ACS.org/Scholars



Interested in becoming an ACS Scholar?
Returning Applicants:

APPLY



Looking for deadlines and requirements?

NEW & CURRENT SCHOLARS



Interested in contributing towards ACS
Scholars?

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Featured Scholars



David Chavez
Scientist, Los Alamos National
Laboratory



Chanda Glover
Analytics Consultant, Humana Inc.



Michelle Melo
Lead Forensic Scientist, Texas
Department of Public Safety



Brandon Presley
Abuse-Deterrent Formulations Team
Leader, NMS Labs



Jacqueline Thomas

ACS Scholars Impact

This program continues to impact
my career in the network
connections that I have made
because I was an ACS Scholar.

2018 Safety Summit – 2 - 4 February



1. Identify, connect, and coordinate current ACS efforts and expertise in the area of chemical safety.
2. Formulate future ACS strategy to demonstrate leadership in advancing a culture of safety in the chemical enterprise.
3. Engage stakeholders and external experts in the conversation to promote an ethos of safety.
4. Identify tools, opportunities, and partnerships that ACS can leverage to support a safety culture.