

HEPPERT, JOSEPH A. *Wakarusa Valley Section.* Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas.

Academic Record: San José State University, B.S., 1978; University of Wisconsin, Ph.D., 1982; Indiana University, Post-Doctoral Fellow, 1985.

Honors: ACS Fellow 2012; University of Kansas Leading Light Award, 2012; Vice Chancellor's Fellow, 2002; University of Kansas Center for Teaching Excellence Graduate Teaching Award, 1998; Keeler Intra-University, Professor, 1998.

Professional Positions (for past 10 years): Texas Tech University, Vice President for Research 2017 to date; University of Kansas, Associate Vice Chancellor for Research, 2009-17; Chemistry Chair, 2005-09; Professor 2001-17; Director, Center for Science Education, 2001-09.

Service in ACS National Offices: Board of Trustees for the Group Insurance Plans (BOT), 2020-22; Committee on Budget and Finance, 2013-21, Chair, 2017-19, Vice Chair, 2014-16, Committee Associate, 2011-12; Committee on Education, 2002-10, Chair, 2004-06, Committee Associate, 2000-01; ACS Chemistry Teacher Education Coalition National Advisory Board, 2011-14; Governance Review Team A, 2007; ACS Program Review Advisory Group 2005-06; Task Forces on Program Valuation and Metrics, 2013-14; ACS Joint Board President's Task Force on Education, Spring 2009-10; ACS President's Task Force on Competitiveness, 2007-08.

Service in ACS Offices: Wakarusa Valley Section (formerly University of Kansas Section): Councilor, 1997-2020; Alternate Councilor, 1994-96; Chair, 2004, 1993; Chair-Elect, 2003, 1992; Treasurer, 1991; Midwest Regional Meeting: General Meeting Co-chair, 2017, Program Chair, 2002; Financial Planning Conference, Co-organizer, 2017, Participant, 2011.

Member (current): Member of ACS since 1979. Sigma Xi; American Association for the Advancement of Science; National Science Teachers Association. *ACS Division(s):* Chemical Education, Inorganic Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, and Small Chemical Businesses.

Related Activities: Institutional Advisory Board Representative, Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas, 2020 to date; Board of Directors Member and Council Vice-Chair, Oak Ridge Associated Universities, 2021 to date; Science, Technology and the Future, Participant; University of Kansas' Center for Science Education, Past Director; University of Kansas Faculty and University Senate Executive Committees, Past Chair; Center for Environmentally Beneficial Catalysis (NSF-ERC), Education Center Director; The Advanced Academy of Georgia, Past Member Board of Directors; University of Kansas Medical Center, Institute for Advancing Medical Innovation, Advisory Board Member, 2015-17.

STATEMENT
Joseph A. Heppert

It is a great honor to be nominated as a candidate for the ACS Board of Directors representing District V. This honor is heightened by the accomplishments of my competitor who has devoted many years of service and leadership for the Society and the profession.

All chemists can be proud of the work we accomplish through ACS. ACS is acknowledged as one of the world's leading professional scientific societies. Our ACS benefits include access to scholarly information, education, professional activities, employment and fellowship with likeminded chemical scientists. ACS has historically done a remarkable job responding to the needs of the chemical profession. While I firmly believe we need to continue to faithfully serve the needs of existing members, the Society also must evolve to become even more effective at attracting, training, and retaining new generations of chemical scientists.

Over the past 75 years, the international chemical industry, led by U.S. chemical innovation, has ushered the world into a healthier, more prosperous, and more environmentally conscious era. Chemical industries have long been a key strength of the U.S. economy. The erosion of this mainstay of economic prosperity accounts for many of our concerns about sustaining membership in the Society, maintaining the vitality of domestic chemical businesses, and preserving the economic standing of our nation in the global community. ACS members know that chemical innovation must continue to play a central role in driving U.S. competitiveness, therefore, we must continue to advocate for government and private sector support for chemical research and entrepreneurship.

Degrees in chemistry provide an excellent foundation for career paths in chemical sciences, as well as in business, teaching, and government service. The Society needs to ensure that graduate and undergraduate students are prepared for the rapidly changing environment of high technology employment. With the increasing cross-disciplinary nature of the workforce, chemists need tools and experiences that equip them to collaborate with professionals in other disciplines. Undergraduate students need expanded access to cutting-edge research at chemistry's disciplinary interfaces. Furthermore, all students should have the opportunity to explore complementary scientific career paths, including work in public policy formation, and experiences in innovation and entrepreneurship.

At this point in our nation's history, it is essential that the Society become an even more ardent advocate for, and leader in, increasing the diversity of the scientific workforce, and increasing inclusivity and equity in our scientific and professional institutions. ACS programs; including Project Seed, ACS Scholars, and local section outreach; are working to increase the diversity of student populations studying in STEM fields. We must re-double our efforts in these areas. The Society can play an increased role in advocating for federal, state and local programs to enhance STEM education and outreach, bringing the wonder of the chemical sciences to ALL students in our nation. This goal is an unfulfilled dream, initiated, in part, by the recommendations of two major National Academy Commission reports during the 2000's. It is essential that the Society advocate for major federal, private sector, and philanthropic investment to place the nation back on track to fulfill this vision.

We have also witnessed a continuing worldwide trend to discount the role of scientific knowledge in the creation of sound national policy and the identification of foci for international cooperation. This trend has led to policy formation that has profound impacts on global health and quality of life, the vitality of the world economy, and the security of our nation. As our Society always has, we must be a consistent voice for the consideration of factual scientific information as a basis for establishing national priorities. We as ACS members must also speak out for the long-term national investments in scientific and technological education, research and development, and technology-

based industry required to secure sustained access to high-paying jobs and economic opportunity, environmental sustainability, and national security.

ACS remains the world's premier source of chemical science knowledge, an important value proposition for our membership. Recent changes in ACS publications and information services have been very popular among academic and industry client bases. As the Society considers strategies for retaining younger scientists, we need to examine how these individuals access and consume scientific information, and adapt Society programs to support this critical segment of our future membership.

If elected as a Director from District V, I will work with ACS members and other members of the Board to support Society policies, practices, and programs to address these and other questions of importance to ACS members.