



FOR DIRECTOR, DISTRICT IV



Photo: Rob Felt

RIGOBERTO HERNANDEZ

The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore Maryland

HERNANDEZ, RIGOBERTO *Georgia Section.* The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland

Academic Record: Princeton University, B.S.E., 1989; University of California, Berkeley, Ph.D., 1993.

Honors: ACS Award for Encouraging Disadvantaged Students into Careers in the Chemical Sciences, 2014; Outstanding Service Award, ACS Georgia Local Section, 2012; ACS Fellow, 2010; Transformational Research and Excellence in Education (TREE) Award, Research Corporation, 2016; Diversity Award, Council of Chemical Research, 2015; Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar, 2015-16; Diversity Award, Council of Chemical Research, 2015; Diversity Champion Award, Georgia Tech 2013; APS Fellow, 2011; Vasser Woolley Faculty Fellow, Georgia Tech, 2011-13; Sackler Visiting Chair in Exact Sciences, Tel Aviv University, 2010; Humboldt Research Fellow, 2006-08; American Association for the Advancement of Science, Fellow, 2005; Goizueta Foundation Junior Professor, Georgia Tech, 2002-06; Alfred P. Sloan Fellow, 2000; Sigma Xi Southeast Regional Young Investigator, 2002, 2000; Research Corporation Cottrell Scholar, 1999; Blanchard Assistant Professor of Chemistry, Georgia Tech, 1999-01; National Science Foundation CAREER Award, 1997; Feinberg Postdoctoral Fellow, 1994; AT&T CRFP Fellow, 1989-93; NSF Graduate Fellow, 1989-92; and Sigma Xi, Member, 1994.

Professional Positions (for past 10 years): The Johns Hopkins University, Professor, 2016 to date; Director, Open Chemistry Collaborative in Diversity Equity (OXIDE), 2011 to date; Georgia Institute of Technology, Professor, 2009-16; Associate Professor, 2002-09; Co-Director of Center for Computational Molecular Sciences & Technology, 2000-16.

Service in ACS National Offices: Board of Directors, Director, District IV, 2014-16; Councilor ex officio, 2014-16; Committee on Budget & Finance, 2016-18, Associate Member, 2015; Committee on Grants and Awards, 2014-16; Committee on Professional and Member Relations, 2014; Committee on Science, Associate Member, 2013; Committee on Committees, 2009-12; Committee on Divisional Activities, 2004-08; Joint DAC/LSAC Subcommittee, Co-Chair, 2005-07; Board Committee on “Minorities in Academe Implementation Team,” 2003-04; Hildebrandt Award Canvassing Committee, 2002-04.

Service in ACS Offices: Member ACS since 1992. *Georgia Section:* Bylaw Councilor, 2012, Alternate Councilor, 2012-13, Councilor, 2003-11; Past-Chair, 2000; Chair, 1999; Chair-Elect, 1998; Chair of Herty Award Committee, 2006-16; Chair, 75th Herty Medal Celebration 2009 and Founding Chair of Herty Medal Undergraduate Research Symposium, 2006-10. *Computers in Chemistry Division:* Alternate Councilor, 2013.

Member: American Association for the Advancement of Science; American Physical Society; Biophysical Society. *ACS Divisions:* Computers in Chemistry; and Physical Chemistry.

Related Activities: STEM Education Review Committee, American Association for the Advancement of Science, 2015-16; Executive Board, Georgia Tech Faculty, 2013-16; Minority NSF STEM PhD Advisory Committee, Sloan Foundation, 2013-14; NIH MSFB Study Section, 2009-13; Research Corporation Cottrell Scholars Advisory Committee Member, 2011-17 and Chair, 2016-17; National Academies Board on Chemical Sciences and Technology, 2007-10; Board of Directors of Telluride Science Research Center, 2007-09; External Review Committee for Morehouse College Chemistry Department, 2007; Steering Committee for NSF Workshop on complexity and emergent phenomenon, 2007; Steering Committee for NSF Workshop on excellence empowered by a diverse workforce, 2007; National Academies Committee on advanced chemical imaging, 2005-06; published over 90 peer-reviewed articles to date.

STATEMENT

The statements of the candidates represent their opinions and do not necessarily represent the views of the ACS.

The most important element in ACS membership is you. Every one of us, cross-linked together through ACS, comprises a personal and professional chemistry network that we can leverage to advance our careers, each other, and chemistry as a whole. Through ACS we can celebrate that **chemistry has a human side, and it must be diverse**. The challenge lies in continuing to adapt our structure and our offerings to best serve the broad needs of our fellowship. This is a challenge that cannot be solved once and for all because we, and the world around us, are constantly changing. The opportunity for advancing the interaction and support of chemical scientists like you is what drove me to volunteer to serve as District Director, and it is why I would like to continue for another term.

I have focused on three of ACS's core values: **The value proposition of ACS membership, Education of the chemical workforce, and Science advocacy**. The diversity in age, experience, backgrounds, world-wide location, race, ethnicity, gender identity and orientation, and abilities that makes our fellowship stronger must be addressed through everything we do. My championing of diversity equity on task forces, boards and as the OXIDE Director

demonstrates my strong commitment to advancing these critical issues within the chemical workforce. As a Director, I have spoken with many of you at regional and national meetings and I wrote two comments in C&EN—[July 14, 2014, pg. 45](#) and [August 24, 2015, pg. 40](#),—promoting diversity equity and inclusive excellence.

ACS remains as relevant and necessary today as when it was founded, despite the flattening in accessing information through the internet. As members, you and I are voting affirmatively with our wallets, declaring that chemistry and our network are important. Through this collective action, we are empowering ourselves as a force for change in areas such as energy, sustainability and human health. Nevertheless, our Society, like many others, is facing the challenge of decreasing membership. This is a tide that we must stem. Our size gives us the diversity we need to advance our science. It also signifies a vote of confidence for all of our advocacy and outreach activities. As an ACS Director, I will remain a strong proponent for providing clarity to the **value proposition of our membership** to each of our present and future members.

Diversity of the emerging chemical workforce translates into a need for using multiple mechanisms in and out of the classroom to engage students in the educational process. As a Phi Beta Kappa lecturer, I have had the opportunity to engage, motivate and mentor undergraduates through campus visits that provide small group interactions going well beyond my classroom. (Check out undergraduate Linsey Liles' [recap](#) of my visit to the University of the South in the Key Reporter). If elected, I hope to continue such visits by engaging local chapters as hosts. I am also keenly aware for the need to continue professional education. I have been involved as a facilitator in the New Faculty Workshop ([C&EN, March 24, 2014, pg. 36](#)). I am also leading a team organizing the Academic Leadership Workshop aimed at supporting mid-career faculty to become university administrators or research center directors ([C&EN, March 7, 2016, pg. 47](#)). These programs illustrate the power of ACS to **catalyze educational opportunities for chemical scientists** throughout our lives.

Advances in chemical science and innovation depend critically on public and private support. Advocacy for such efforts can succeed only if we make our science understandable to the public. It is particularly critical for advancing high-risk, high-potential science that tends to receive less funding when budgets are tight ([C&EN, September 21, 2015, pg. 33](#)). Again, ACS as a professional society is uniquely positioned to provide current understanding of science and to advocate for the chemical challenges that still remain to be understood. I have enjoyed working with ACS staff in **advocating for chemical science** and the people who do that work.

Through these priorities, I will aim to help our Society become a better home for its members and a more effective partner to the world. **The resonating thread that we must advance through these and other initiatives is you.** ACS programs can be effective only if they serve your needs and advance your goals. To this end, I look forward to hearing from you through links at <http://tinyurl.com/hernandez4acs> to learn more about how to make our ACS fellowship even stronger. I also ask for your vote so that I may continue to work with you and our fellow ACS members to improve your ACS.