

JUNE 2026

SIoux VALLEY ACS

ISSUE 7



TRIANNUAL NEWSLETTER

In this newsletter...

Hear a word from our Chair and learn about our **2026 goals** and ways you can participate to help us achieve them!

Winner, winner! Learn about our undergraduate and graduate winners from the 2026 **Spring Awards Banquet**.

Learn about **upcoming events** in the region and nationally.



ACS Local Section
Sioux Valley



LETTER FROM OUR CHAIR

DR. RACHEL WILLAND-CHARNLEY

As we look ahead, the Sioux Valley ACS Section is focused on three key goals: strengthening partnerships with industry, expanding collaborations with academic institutions across our region, and creating more opportunities for community gathering and engagement.

You can help advance these goals in several ways. If you work in industry or have connections with local companies, we encourage you to introduce the section to potential partners interested in programs, facility tours, speakers, internships, sponsorships, or hosting events. These relationships help connect chemistry across sectors and create valuable opportunities for our members.

We also seek to broaden our academic network by engaging new institutions, faculty, staff, and student groups throughout the region. Personal invitations and introductions are often the most effective way to build lasting collaborations and expand participation in section activities.

Finally, we invite all members to help foster a stronger chemistry community by attending events, sharing ideas for informal gatherings, and considering hosting activities of your own. Through our BOND grant program, members can receive support for community-focused events that bring chemists and the public together in meaningful ways.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement. Together, we can strengthen our regional chemistry community and create new opportunities for collaboration, connection, and impact.

SIoux VALLEY



ACS Local Section
Sioux Valley



HELP US REACH OUR GOALS

Goal 1

Increase collaboration with industrial partners.

Members can help by introducing Sioux Valley ACS to colleagues in industry who may be interested in partnering on programs, tours, speakers, internships, or sponsorships. If you work in industry or have contacts at local companies, consider helping us identify opportunities for collaboration or hosting a section event.

Goal 2

Increase collaboration with new academic institutions and members in our region.

Members can also help us connect with new academic institutions by reaching out to faculty, staff, and student groups who may want to participate in section activities. Personal invitations are often the best way to start new relationships, and even a simple introduction can help us broaden our network.

Goal 3

Increase opportunities for community gatherings.

To support our goal of creating more community gatherings, we encourage members to attend events, share ideas for informal meetups, and consider hosting a gathering of their own. Learn more about our BOND grant program which supports member-hosted community events in hopes to make it easier for more people to bring chemists and community members together in meaningful ways.

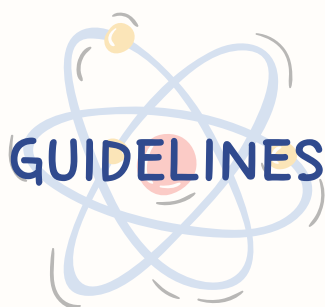
Email chemistry@siouxvalleyacs.com with recommendations for industrial and/or academic collaborators!

BOND GRANT

BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR
NETWORKING AND DISCOVERY



The Sioux Valley ACS BOND Grant supports local events that build connections across the regional chemistry community. Funding is available for gatherings that promote networking, career awareness, recruitment, outreach, and community-building among students, educators, and industry professionals.



- Apply once each calendar year
- Submit your request 4–6 weeks before the event
- Use funding for approved event expenses
- Recognize Sioux Valley ACS in event promotions
- Share a short summary after the event
- Welcome broad participation from the chemistry community



- Propose a networking event, site visit, panel, outreach activity, or recruitment event
- Create opportunities for career exploration and community-building in chemistry
- Learn more and apply for support at

<https://www.siuoxvalleyacs.com/>



ACS Local Section
Sioux Valley

2026 SPRING AWARDS

Graduate Student Research Excellence

Robyn Cook, USD
Sharad Bhattarai, SDSU



Distinguished Senior Undergraduates

Rylie Reading, Northern State
Basmala Aleman, Augustana
Lin-Lin Elliot, Augustana
Bjorn Eide, Augustana

Not Pictured:
Tristen Burns and Gabriel Smith, Augustana



Outstanding Senior Undergraduates

Maysa Gillingham, Augustana
Liliana Ingalls, Augustana
Ayman Abdulhafiz, Augustana
Caleb DeWitt, Augustana
Kylie Rosenau, SDSU



10TH ANNUAL EASTERN SOUTH DAKOTA RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM



Key Note Speaker

Hubert Tse

Kansas University Medical Center

SAVE THE DATE

June 12, 2026



DAKOTA ROOM SANFORD CENTER

2301 East 60th St N
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

Poster Sessions

Basic & Biomedical Research Session

Lance Lee

Sanford Research

Bilal Hafeez

SDSU

Jetty Duffy

Augustana

Arun Singh

USD

Social & Behavioral Research Session

Shannon Proksch

Augustana

Erin Miller

SDSU

Joseph Kantenbacher

USD

Brianne Richson

Sanford Research

Transdisciplinary & Team Science Research Session

Paola Vermeer

Sanford Research

Evening Social & Poster Prizes



ResearchAdminAsst@sanfordhealth.org

LJPilaz@sanfordhealth.org

SANFORD
RESEARCH



AU
AUGUSTANA
UNIVERSITY



2026 BIENNIAL CONFERENCE ON CHEMICAL EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN—MADISON

JULY 26–30, 2026



REMOTE
OPTION!

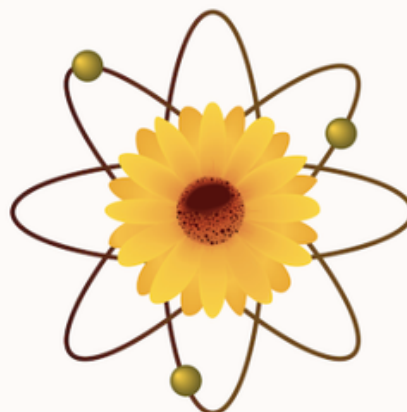
LEARN MORE AND REGISTER AT:

[HTTPS://BCCE.DIVCHED.ORG/2026/REGISTRATION](https://bcce.divched.org/2026/registration)

abstract SUBMISSION

Abstract submission is currently open in the MAPS system through **July 20, 2026**. You will need to log in with your ACS account (if you do not have an ACS account, you can make one at the link given in the login window).

You may access the abstract submission at:
[Abstract Submission](#)



MWRM 2026

— MANHATTAN, KS —

OCTOBER 25-27

ACS
FALL
2026



REMOTE
OPTION!

LEARN MORE AND REGISTER AT:

[HTTPS://WEBREG.EXPERIENTEVENT.COM/SHOWCHS262](https://webreg.experientevent.com/showchs262)

SEEKING
CONFERENCE

JUNE 2026

SIoux VALLEY ACS

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FALL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

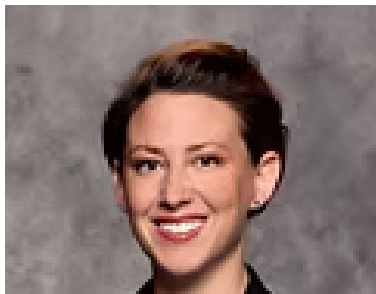
USF
UNIVERSITY OF
SIoux FALLS

Undergraduate and graduate students prepare your posters and make plans to join us on **Saturday, September 19th** for the Sioux Valley ACS Fall Research Symposium.

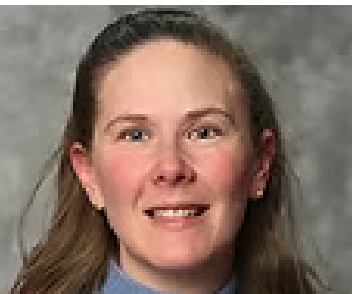
Winners receive up to \$400 in a travel award to an ACS meeting!

Save
THE
Date

www.sioxvalleyacs.com/



CHAIR
DR. RACHEL WILLAND-CHARNLEY



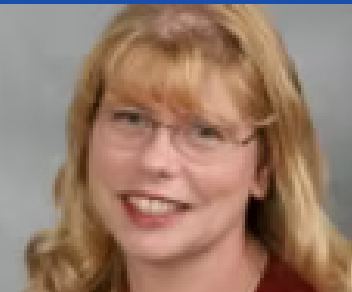
SECRETARY
DR. MELODY JEWELL



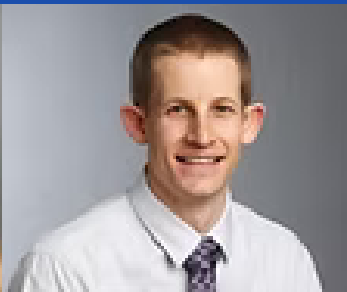
TREASURER
DR. CHRIS SCHWARTZ



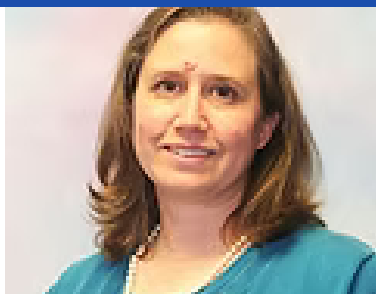
PUBLIC RELATIONS
DR. BETHANY MELROE LEHRMAN



COUNCILOR
DR. JETTY DUFFY-MATZNER



ALT. COUNCILOR
DR. ADAM STURLAUGSON



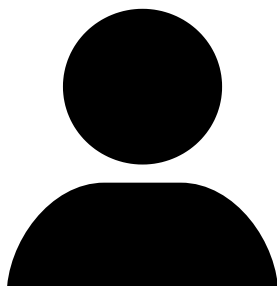
MEMBER AT LARGE
DR. PAULA MAZZER



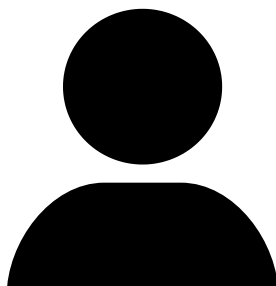
YCC COORDINATOR
BLESSING ISHOLA



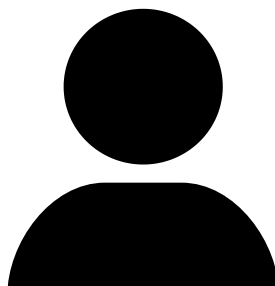
MEMBER AT LARGE
DR. BENJAMIN TOKHEIM



MINORITY WOMEN'S
AFFAIR COORDINATOR

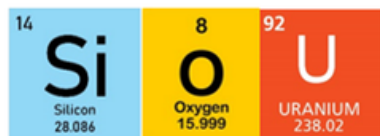


OUTREACH
COORDINATOR

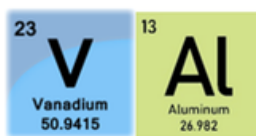


NATIONAL CHEMISTRY
OLYMPIAD COORDINATOR

We are still seeking volunteers for: Minority Women's Affair Coordinator, Outreach Coordinator, and National Chemistry Olympiad Coordinator!



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Follow us on:



Email chemistry@siouxvalleyacs.com with spotlight ideas! Research, teaching, industry, undergraduate or graduate... we want to highlight them!

OFFICERS & volunteers