Announcement to High School Chemistry Teachers in Greater Houston Region

Dear Chemistry Teacher and Colleague,

As the Coordinator for the Greater Houston Section of the American Chemical Society (ACS–GHS), I am pleased to announce that we will be participating in the 2020 U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad (USNCO). The primary goals of this program are to stimulate interest and achievement in chemistry among high school students throughout the United States and to provide recognition of outstanding young chemistry students, teachers, and schools.

Students competing in the USNCO are eligible to be selected as members of the United States team for the International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO). For the past thirty six years, the United States has sent a team of four students to compete with nations around the world at the IChO. The students participate in both theoretical and laboratory examinations over several days. Gold, silver, and bronze medals are awarded to the best performers, and the IChO provides students the opportunity to interact with their peers from other countries. This year the international event will be held in Istanbul, Turkey on July 6-15, 2020.

My immediate task is to encourage you and your students to participate in this program. **Identification of the four-member USNCO team begins at the local school system level.** It is the responsibility of ACS–GHS to nominate students from this area to take the USNCO national examination. To identify these students, we will conduct a **local competition through a theoretical-only examination prepared by the ACS, at the Main Campus of the University of Houston on Friday evening, March 6, 2020.** The national exam (for the selected students based on the results of the aforementioned competition) will involve three parts administered to about 1,000 students. Students can use past exams available at [www.acs.org/olympiad](http://www.acs.org/olympiad) to prepare.

I encourage your school to participate in this academic Olympiad. All students who participate in the U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad will be recognized and presented with a certificate; top 150 students receive recognition for outstanding performance at the national level. Please see in the following link the 3 High Honors and 6 Honors students from ACS–GHS in the top 154-student list recognized in 2019: [https://www.acs.org/content/dam/acsorg/education/students/highschool/olympiad/process/competitions/2019-usnco-high-honors-and-honors-list.pdf](https://www.acs.org/content/dam/acsorg/education/students/highschool/olympiad/process/competitions/2019-usnco-high-honors-and-honors-list.pdf). We hope this recognition will serve to stimulate interest in chemistry and to promote a positive attitude toward chemistry.

**Please send the enclosed registration form through emails to acs.ghs.cho@gmail.com before February 15, 2020.** Further questions may also be sent to the same email address and I will try my best to answer them. Thank you for helping promote chemical education in this country.

Sincerely,

Jerry Yang

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