

THE CAPITAL CHEMIST

A Publication of the Chemical Society of Washington Section of the American Chemical Society

CSW Dinner Meeting February 12, 2026, featuring Michelle Williams, “Chemistry is Everything: Mobilizing for Impact”

Meeting Logistics

Date: Thursday, February 12, 2026

Time: 6:00 p.m. Check-in / Social Hour

6:30 p.m. Dinner

7:00 p.m. Speaker Presentation

Location: ACS Headquarters – Marvel Hall
1155 16th Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20036

Menu: Meal will be catered by W. Millar & Co. and will feature Create-your-own Korean bowl with chicken or beef, jasmine rice, salad, and dessert (Tiramisu cups). Beverages will be provided. Vegetarian option: Crispy tofu & broccoli available by request only.

Cost: \$24 (1/2 price for students and high school teachers)

An RSVP is required for dinner by noon, February 10th, so we can plan appropriate seating and meals.

Registration is required if you wish to participate virtually via Zoom.

Registration link: <https://tinyurl.com/yz64j3s2>

RSVP by noon (ET) Tuesday, February 10, to csw@acs.org. Please provide the names in your party as well as your contact information when you RSVP. The public is invited to attend. You may attend the talk only at no charge, but reservations are appreciated. If you need any further information or would like to make a reservation, please contact the CSW office by email at csw@acs.org.

Parking: Parking is available in nearby commercial parking garages. Please be aware that garage closing times vary. Parking is also available on the street after 6:30 pm, but be aware that most parking meters are in effect until 10:00 pm and may be limited to 2 hours. You should check the individual meters for details and payment methods as some are no longer coin-operated.

Metro: Blue/Orange/Silver Line: McPherson Square or Farragut West. Red Line: Farragut North

Volume 76, Number 2

February 2026

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- Become a Project SEED mentor or encourage a student to apply
- Register students to participate in the National Chemistry Olympiad
- Help us with our tactile braille periodic table project
- Nominate a CSW member for the Hillebrand Prize, Gordon Award, or Schubert Award
- Apply for the CSW Student Travel Award
- Apply for the Teacher Travel Grant
- Apply for the Division of Analytical Chemistry YCC Travel Award

Biography

Michelle D. Williams, DES, is an award-winning marketing leader specializing in enterprise-level initiatives and high-impact organizational milestones with a global reach. As the Senior Manager of Marketing & Special Projects at the American Chemical Society (ACS), she currently leads the marketing strategy for the ACS 150th Anniversary.

With a track record of managing budgets exceeding \$1.7M, Michelle excels at translating complex institutional history into modern audience growth. Her expertise in “pivotal” marketing initiatives includes producing Bob Johnson’s 20th Anniversary productions, orchestrating Blackboard’s 2015 New Learner Experience rebrand launch across 17 international offices and executive producing high-profile sessions for CES, the world’s most influential tech event.

From directing keynotes for Dr. Mae Jemison and Dr. Jill Biden to pioneering digital campaigns that raised \$11M for Hurricane Katrina relief, Michelle’s career is defined by her ability to manage the intersection of legacy and innovation. A Howard University alumna and certified Digital Events Strategist (DES), she remains a sought-after leader for teams looking to leverage significant milestones for long-term brand evolution. Most importantly, she is a proud wife and mother of two sons.



Abstract

As the American Chemical Society approaches its historic 150th anniversary, the opportunity to shape a century-scale legacy begins now. This session is a strategic call to action for leaders and community members to transform the milestone theme, "Chemistry is Everything," into a powerful engine for local and national engagement. Look forward to a collaborative workshop with key outcomes.

Tangible Takeaway: Leave with a preliminary engagement toolkit and a defined set of objectives to kickstart the 2026 anniversary initiatives.

Tactical Execution: Master the 12-month thematic calendar to simplify event planning.

Community Mobilization: Identify specific involvement pathways to energize members and the public.

Dr. Alan T. Remaley Wins 2025 Hillebrand Prize

The awards committee of the Chemical Society of Washington is pleased to announce Dr. Alan T. Remaley as the winner of the 2025 Hillebrand Prize. This award is in recognition of his work illuminating research in the chemistry of lipids and drug development for the treatment of cardiovascular diseases.

Dr. Remaley is a leading advocate for the understanding of lipid metabolism and its role in diseases worldwide. He has demonstrated extraordinary creativity in the lipoprotein chemistry, with interests in characterization of lipid enzymes and their relevance to negative health outcomes. His contributions to the science have ranged from preparation of recombinant enzymes to small-molecule drug development targeting lipid metabolic pathways. His dedication to translational research has had a monumental impact on lipid metabolism, resulting in numerous publications and patents (over 500 papers published in top-rated journals in his discipline, cited ca. 44997 times).



Dr. Alan T. Remaley
Section Chief, Lipoprotein Metabolism Laboratory
Translational Vascular Medicine Branch
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute
National Institutes of Health

Dr. Remaley will be presenting at an upcoming CSW dinner meeting in March. More details to come.

Pilates & Prosecco event at Club Studio – Tysons Corner on Saturday, February 14, 2026, at 3:00 PM

The ACS Chemical Society of Washington and the Northeast Region of NOBCChE are excited to invite you to a Pilates & Prosecco event at Club Studio – Tysons Corner on Saturday, February 14th at 3:00 PM!

Come celebrate Valentine's Day with us for a fun and energizing afternoon. Our NOBCChE National Student Representative, Brandi Williams will be leading the class, making this session extra special!

Event Details:

Date: Saturday, February 14, 2026

Time: 3:00 PM

Location: Club Studio – Tysons Corner
1500 Cornerside Blvd A, Vienna VA 22182

RSVP: <https://forms.gle/hL8kwqks6z1Cvfvu5>

Spots are limited, so please send \$5 to Carissa Hunter to RSVP soon to secure your place. Attendees will also receive a special gift at the end of class as a thank you for joining us.

Deadline to RSVP: Monday, February 9th, 2026

We can't wait to see you there!



Volunteer Opportunity: Help Plan MARM 2028

The Chemical Society of Washington has been selected as the host of the 2028 Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting (MARM) of the ACS. An organizing committee has been established, and preparations are already underway. The meeting will be held right in the heart of Washington, DC, at historic Howard University June 8 – 10, 2028. Howard was selected for its prime location, favorable accommodations, and historic nature as one of the first HBCUs established in the United States after the Civil War by General Oliver Otis Howard. While we plan to include many of the symposia you are used to from other regional and national ACS meetings, we will also work to include symposia geared towards government labs and policy making given our unique location. We hope you can make this meeting to share and hear about great chemistry happening in the Mid-Atlantic area, but even more so we hope you can assist in our preparations!

So far, the organizing committee is composed of the following volunteers: Prof. Wes Farrell of the US Naval Academy is the General Chair, Prof. Lauren Ragle of George Washington University and Prof. Jacqueline Smith of Howard University are the Co-Program Chairs, Dr. Alessandra Zimmerman of the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences is the Communications Chair, former CSW President Dr. Jason Schaff is the Treasurer, Prof. Alex Zestos of American University is the Outreach and Volunteering Chair, and our outgoing CSW President Dr. Allison Aldridge is the Fundraising Chair. Additionally, Prof. Steven Cummings of Howard University is hard at work serving as a liaison between the committee and Howard University officials.

The local organizing committee is currently seeking to fill additional roles which require different levels of commitment. Furthermore, we hope to have volunteers to organize and preside over symposia, and make suggestions for plenary speakers. We encourage you to share your thoughts or volunteer using our Google survey: <https://tinyurl.com/yjtcvaxr>

Project SEED Mentors and Students Needed

In the coming months, we will be seeking students for Project SEED, which encourages underprivileged high school students to pursue chemistry via a paid summer research experience. During the program, CSW hosts sessions covering chemistry careers, and how to present research. The program culminates with the students presenting their work at the ACS National Headquarters building in Washington, DC.



Student applications open on February 9th. If your student might be interested, you can visit the ACS website to learn more and apply. This provides a paid research experience for high schoolers with an interest in chemistry for 8-10 weeks over this coming summer. In addition, students can also receive travel support for public transit usage via our Travel Green Program. After the program is completed, students will be eligible for unique college scholarships through the American Chemical Society.

For this program to be successful, we need energetic mentors who are willing to work with our amazing students. Mentors come from research spaces across the region, from academia to national labs. We would also love to have mentors from industry, too!

The application deadline for interested mentors is February 3, 2026. Please contact Lauren Ragle (lragle@gwu.edu) with "Project SEED" in your subject line for more information and the application packet.

Learn more about Project SEED: <https://www.acs.org/education/students/highschool/seed.html>

Chemistry Olympiad Starts this Month

All high school students across the local section can take the local section exam for the Chemistry Olympiad. The local section exam will take place between February 27 and March 16. If your school does not proctor the exam, there will be availability to take it with fellow students at the ACS Headquarters building in early March. Seventeen students will be selected (no more than two per school) to take the national exam. The national exam will take place at Montgomery College in mid-April, with more information to follow. If your high school student is interested, please visit <https://www.acs.org/education/olympiad.html> to learn more and register at <https://www.usncoreg.acs.org/>. For more information, please contact the CSW coordinator, Lauren Ragle (lragle@gwu.edu) with "Olympiad" or "USNCO" in the subject of your email.



CWD Needs You: Placing Tactile Braille Periodic Tables in the DMV Region

As you may have read in C&EN, the Chemists with Disabilities Committee just celebrated our 45th anniversary as a committee. We have also set a rather lofty goal, to get a tactile braille periodic table in every state by our 50th anniversary. I would like to see one in DC and our territories as well, but that is a sort of “stretch” goal for the minds behind this project, Mike Fricke and Mona Minkara.



Therefore, I am bringing Mike and Mona’s project to MARM 2028 at Howard. We will need volunteers to help them apply the tactile braille dots (as you may have done during the recent national meeting in DC). But we will also need suggestions on where to place the final table. Ideally, we will have ideas where to place tables in Maryland, Virginia, and DC. If you have connections to a place you think would be good for the periodic table(s), please reach out to me, Lauren Ragle (lragle@gwu.edu). Be sure to include “Braille Periodic Table” in the title of your email. I’m open to ideas, questions, and suggestions.

Read the article in C&EN: <https://tinyurl.com/2tvmwakz>

Teacher Travel Grant Available for 29th Biennial Conference on Chemical Education

The 29th Biennial Conference on Chemical Education (BCCE), will be held at the University of Wisconsin – Madison from July 26-30, 2026. DMV-area high school



teachers are strongly encouraged to apply for the CSW BCCE Teacher Travel grant by March 15, 2026. Applicants will be notified of the status of their application by mid-April. Additional details can be found in the application form.

The conference, like all its predecessors, provides the chemistry education community with opportunities to interact and engage. The conference will be a mixture of symposia, workshops, poster sessions, exhibits, and spaces for both formal and informal conversations. Learn more about the conference on their website at <https://conferences.union.wisc.edu/bcce2026/>.

Application form: <https://tinyurl.com/3mh9m5ua>

Applications are now being accepted: CSW Student Travel Award - ACS Fall 2026 Meeting

The ACS National Meeting for Fall 2026 will be held in Chicago, Illinois, on August 23-27, 2026. This will be a hybrid event.

The Chemical Society of Washington is pleased to announce a student travel award to defray travel and/or registration costs to the ACS Fall 2026 meeting. Eligible expenses include meeting registration, travel expenses, airfare and lodging. Applicants should submit the following by midnight on June 1, 2026 to csw@acs.org:

- A cover letter stating how and why attending this ACS meeting will promote their career;
- The applicant's CV;
- A letter of recommendation from the student's mentor explaining why the student deserves the award and how this will help their professional development;
- An accepted abstract with proof of acceptance.

Within three weeks of returning from the ACS meeting, the awardees should submit receipts for any or all of the eligible expenses described above, after which the Treasurer of the Chemical Society of Washington will issue a check to each of the awardees.

The award is open to students who are graduate or undergraduate students in the jurisdiction of the Chemical Society of Washington. The award is not intended for post-doctoral fellows. There will be a maximum of four awards available. Each award will be for up to \$1,000 of eligible expenses based on the review of the above materials.

After returning from the conference, awardees will be asked to draft a short (1-page) summary of their experiences for posting to the *Capital Chemist* website and to present their posters, if applicable, at one of the upcoming CSW dinner meetings.

Accepting Nominations for the 2026 Hillebrand Prize: Recognizing original contributions to the science of chemistry by a member or members of the Chemical Society of Washington (CSW)



William Francis Hillebrand
December 12, 1853 – February 7, 1925
American Chemist
ACS President 1906

Nominations are being accepted for the 2026 Hillebrand Prize Award.

Nominations are invited for the 2026 Hillebrand Prize, awarded annually for original contributions to the science of chemistry by a member or members of the Chemical Society of Washington (CSW), the local section of the American Chemical Society. The Hillebrand Prize is the most prestigious honor given each year by CSW and is recognized nationally as a mark of significant accomplishment in chemistry. The Hillebrand Prize originated in 1924 and is named for Dr. William F. Hillebrand (1853- 1925), an internationally-recognized pioneer in analytical chemistry and one of Washington's most distinguished early chemists.

The prize carries an honorarium of \$2000. Many previous Hillebrand Prize recipients have won numerous other national and international awards, including three who have received the Nobel Prize.

View the list of past award winners: <https://capitalchemist.org/2018/06/hillebrand-prize-recipients-by-year/>

The nominating package should contain the following:

Nominating Letter – limited to 1000 words

The letter should focus broadly on the chemical accomplishments of the nominee, rather than their bio, leaving the finer points to those submitting seconding letters. Biographic details (degrees, positions held, major activities, etc.) will be given in the nominee's CV. The letter should begin with the major theme(s) in the nominee's research career with perhaps a summary of how these evolved over the years to create breakthroughs or push the field in a new or very productive direction.

Describing the nominee's major contribution(s) is extremely important and should be the bulk of the letter.

There is no preference or restriction for the specific area of contribution so long as it represents a significant accomplishment in chemistry. Anything is fair game: synthetic or analytical, experimental or theoretical, bio- or inorganic, etc. This section might detail such things as: the major techniques used in their research and how these were applied to a specific area to bring about significant results not previously achievable; if their research resulted in the development of a new experimental/instrumental technique or use of an existing technique in an innovative new way; how techniques the nominee developed became standard in that area; the impact the nominee's work had on influencing other areas of research; development of new reagents, catalysts or reaction conditions; development of a new computational method or theoretical approach; etc. The nominator should provide evidence in support of these statements. This could include information about the number of citations, impact factors of certain articles (or aggregate numbers), especially influential articles/book chapters, important invited talks, previous awards by other societies, patents, funding, important leadership positions, etc. Mentioning an extremely productive collaboration is possible so long as the role/contributions of the nominee are clear. The award is not given for mentoring students (as a specific criteria) but nominators often mention if this has occurred, especially if these students have gone on to significant positions of their own.

Two Seconding Letters – limited to 500 words each

It is helpful if these be from established experts in the nominee's field, and best if they are from experts at institutions other than the nominee's unless a notable expert in the nominee's area is also from the nominee's institution.

Curriculum Vitae – the candidate must be a member of CSW

The CV should strongly emphasize individual academic backgrounds, appointments, publications, presentations, and patents.

List of Publications

This is critical in determining the specific scientific contribution of the nominee or team.

Proposed Citation – limited to 25 words

This is a brief statement that should be understood by chemists in almost any area. It should avoid highly specialized language but still give the reader the area of accomplishment and why this is a significant accomplishment in chemistry. In some ways it is a one or two sentence abstract of the first paragraph of the nominating letter. Since this is only 25 words, you may simply want to provide 1 or 2 examples of previous awardees.

We strongly recommend that the nominator collect all materials and forward in one email, preferably as PDF files(s), to csw@acs.org. Nominations will be active for three years.

If you would like to verify the eligibility of an individual as a nominee or nominator, please contact the CSW Administrator at csw@acs.org. The awardee will be announced before the end of the year, and the Prize will be presented at the CSW dinner meeting in Fall 2026, or on a date mutually agreeable.

If you have any questions about the award or the procedure for nominating someone for the award, please contact our office at csw@acs.org.

Accepting Nominations for the 2026 Charles L. Gordon Award: Recognizing Excellence in Service

Named after Charles Gordon for his years of service as managing editor of the *Capital Chemist*, the Charles L. Gordon Memorial Award is given in recognition of exemplary service by a CSW member to the profession of chemistry, to the science of chemistry, and/or to the Chemical Society of Washington. Nominations are invited for this award, consisting of a plaque that will be presented at a fall CSW dinner meeting. A written nomination should include a description of the accomplishments on which the nomination is based. Additional documentation that includes seconding letters and the nominee's CV are welcome.

The nomination should be submitted electronically to csw@acs.org. Please contact CSW (csw@acs.org), if you have any questions.

Accepting Nominations for the 2026 Leo Schubert Award: Recognizing Excellence in Chemistry Teachers

The Chemical Society of Washington (CSW) is pleased to announce the call for nominations for the Leo Schubert Memorial Award to recognize an outstanding high school chemistry teacher in the Washington, D.C. area. The award was established in 1979 to honor Dr. Leo Schubert (1916-1978), a chemistry professor at American University who devoted much of his career to developing programs for high school teachers and students. The Schubert award consists of a \$500 honorarium and a certificate, which will be presented at a fall CSW dinner meeting.

Nominations for the award must be comprehensive in describing the nominee's accomplishments in areas such as innovation in teaching, writing curricula, outside teaching, papers published, involvement in science fairs, and postgraduate study. The application may also include supporting letters, as well as any supporting documents that concisely illuminate the nominee's accomplishments.

To be eligible for the CSW Schubert award, the nominee must currently teach chemistry at a secondary school in the geographic region of the Chemical Society of Washington, which includes metropolitan Washington, D.C. and the neighboring counties in Maryland (Montgomery, Prince George's, Charles, Calvert and St. Mary's Counties) and Virginia (Arlington, Fairfax and Loudoun Counties). The region of CSW also includes six counties on the Eastern Shore of Maryland: Caroline, Talbot, Dorchester, Wicomico, Worcester, and Somerset.

The CSW Schubert Award nomination form is available via our website: <https://tinyurl.com/29k2vvh4>

Alternatively, a pdf version of the nomination form can be obtained by an email request to csw@acs.org. Completed nomination forms can be sent directly to csw@acs.org. Please contact csw@acs.org if you have any questions.

ACS Division of Analytical Chemistry YCC Travel Award

The ACS Division of Analytical Chemistry is offering travel awards for Younger Chemists (under age 40) to travel to a meeting to present the results of their research. Individuals who may not have previously been able to participate in professional meetings are particularly encouraged to apply. Applications are due Nov 1st for winter and spring meetings and May 1st for summer and fall meetings. More information is available on the Division website at <https://acsanalytical.org/award/younger-chemists-conference-travel-grants/>. The application forms will be available when the application period is open.

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Capital Chemist Staff

Voice: 202-659-2650

Email: thecapitalchemist@gmail.com

X (formerly Twitter): @CapitalChemist

Chair, Publications

Alessandra Zimmermann

Editor, Business Manager

Jessica Catto

Publisher

Chemical Society of Washington

CSW Correspondence

CSW, 1155 16th Street, NW, O-218

Washington, DC 20036

202-659-2650 voice

email: csw@acs.org

www.capitalchemist.org

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The **Chemical Society of Washington (CSW)** is the local ACS Chapter for the Washington, DC area and serves approximately 3,500 members.

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CSW Calendar of Events

- February 3: Mentor application deadline for Project SEED
- February 9: Project SEED student application opens
- February 12: CSW Dinner Meeting
- February 14: Pilates and Prosecco
- February 27 – March 16th: National Chemistry Olympiad local section exams
- March 15: Teacher Travel Grant deadline
- June 1: CSW Student Travel Award deadline

The following CSW members contributed content to this month's newsletter: Wesley Farrell, Carissa Hunter, Monika Konaklieva, Lauren Ragle, and Nevart Tahmazian.