ACS | Southwest Regional Meeting (SWRM)



Awards Ceremony

Celebrating Great Chemists!

Sponsored by the ACS-DFW Local Section

Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2026
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Crystal A
Hilton, Fort Worth

2026 SWRM awards Committee
Dr. Rajani Srinivasan
Dr. Amandeep Sra
Dr. Hyun Suk Kang
Dr. Josh David Edwards

Program

Opening Remarks
Dr. Rajani Srinivasan, Dr. Amandeep Sra
SWRM 2026 Awards Co-chairs

2026 SWRM Regional Award Presentations

Stanley C. Israel Award for Advancing Diversity in the Chemical Sciences
Presented to Dr. Jerrod A. Henderson, University of Houston
Presented by: Dr. H.N. Cheng, ACS President 2021

Southwest Regional ACS Award
Presented to Michael A. Reynolds, Shell USA Inc.
Presented by: Dr. H.N. Cheng, ACS President 2021

E. Ann Nalley Regional Award for Volunteer Service to ACS
Presented to Dr. Abha Verma, Xavier University of Louisiana
Presented by: Dr. Ann Nalley, ACS President 2006

The ACS Division of Chemical Education Southwest Region Award for Excellence in High School Teaching
Presented to Dr. Claire Conboy, St. Thomas High School
Presented by: Lisa Houston, Director, District IV

Partners for Progress and Prosperity Award
Presented to Kathy Clear, North Oklahoma ACS Section;
Lacy Hamilton, Phillips 66;
Megan Garcia, Chevron Phillips Chemical
Accepted by Alex Wilbee - Phillips 66 on behalf of the partnership team
Presented by: Silvia S. Jurisson, Director, District V

Recognition of 2026 SWRM Chairs
Presented by: Lisa Houston, Director, District IV
Silvia S. Jurisson, Director, District V

Dr. Mihaela Stefan, Program Chair
Dr. Nick Tsarevsky, Meeting Co-Chair
Dr. Gabriele Meloni, Meeting Co-Chair
Dr. Amandeep Sra, Awards Chair
Dr. Rajani Srinivasan, Awards Chair
Dr. Doug Carlton, Expo Co-Chair
Dr. Jonathan Dannatt, Expo Co-Chair
Dr. Jeremiah Gassensmith, Career & Recruiting Chair
Martha Gilchrist, Finance Chair
Dr. Hien Nguyen, Webmaster
Dr. Daniel Tran, Social Media Coordinator
Dr. Sandhya Gavva, Social Media Coordinator

The 2026 SWRM Awardees

Stanley C. Israel Regional Award for Advancing Diversity in the Chemical Sciences

Recognizes individuals and/or institutions who have advanced diversity in the chemical sciences and significantly fostered activities promoting inclusiveness within the region.



Dr. Jerrod A. Henderson | University of Houston

A nationally recognized leader in STEM education, mentoring, and engineering education research, Dr. Henderson is an Assistant Professor of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering whose extraordinary contributions and engineering leadership exemplify these values. He co-founded the St. Elmo Brady STEM Academy, founded the Black Male Engineering Mentoring Network, and previously directed UH's PROMES program. His research on engineering identity and belonging has secured more than $18 million, including a 2023 NSF CAREER Award. A recipient of numerous national honors, he continues to expand STEM pathways through scholarship, mentorship, and global educational initiatives.

Southwest Regional ACS Award

Recognizes an individual who, while residing in the Southwest Region, has made meritorious contributions to chemistry, chemical engineering, chemical education, or the profession as a whole.



Dr. Michael A. Reynolds | Shell USA Inc.

Honored for outstanding contributions to industrial research, chemical engineering, education, and professional service, Dr. Reynolds is Principal Science Fellow for Shell Catalysts and Technologies, leading research from catalyst discovery to commercialization. Over his 23-year career, he has advanced technologies in refining, sustainable aviation fuel, hydrogen storage, and the energy transition, yielding more than 30 patents and 33 peer-reviewed publications. An Adjunct Professor at Rice University since 2012, he is a Fellow of both ACS and the Royal Society of Chemistry and a leader in several professional societies. His honors include the 2022 ACS Partners for Progress and Prosperity (P3) Award, the 2025 AIChE CRE Practice Award, and the 2026 ACS ENFL Distinguished Researcher Award.

E. Ann Nalley Regional Award for Volunteer Service to the American Chemical Society

Recognizes individuals whose regional volunteer service to the American Chemical Society has contributed significantly to the Society's goals and objectives.



Dr. Abha Verma | Xavier University of Louisiana

Dr. Verma is honored for her longstanding dedication to the Society and her commitment to advancing the chemical sciences through service, outreach, and mentorship. An Associate Professor of Chemistry, she founded the Louisiana Section's Younger Chemists Committee, served as Section Chair, and continues to support the chemistry community through ACS leadership, outreach, career development, and the U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad.

ACS Division of Chemical Education Southwest Region Award for Excellence in High School Teaching

Recognizes, encourages, and stimulates outstanding teachers of high school chemistry in the Southwest Region.



Dr. Claire Conboy | St. Thomas High School

Dr. Conboy is honored for her exceptional commitment to chemistry education and to inspiring the next generation of scientists and engineers. She earned degrees in chemistry and mathematics, a master's degree from UC Davis, and a Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry from the University of Illinois. After a 20-year career as an NMR spectroscopist at Dow Chemical, she moved into teaching at the community college and high school levels. She provides rigorous chemistry instruction emphasizing laboratory experience and data analysis, and develops engineering courses that encourage students to pursue careers in applied sciences.

Partners for Progress and Prosperity (P3) Award

Recognizes outstanding partnerships among academia, industry, government, and other organizations that advance chemistry through education, outreach, advocacy, career development, and community impact.

Kathy Clear, Megan Garcia, and Lacy Hamilton are recognized for their collaborative leadership and commitment to advancing chemistry through STEM outreach, community engagement, and educational partnerships.



Kathy Clear | Chevron Phillips Chemical

A Research Technologist with more than 38 years of experience in the chemical and polymer industries, Kathy is a co-inventor on more than 150 U.S. patents and a significant contributor to research and product innovation. An active ACS member for over 35 years, she chairs the Northern Oklahoma Local Section and champions science outreach, professional development, and community engagement.



Megan Garcia | Chevron Phillips Chemical

As Director of R&T Facilities and Operations, Megan leads efforts to create safe, effective environments for innovation and research. A chemical engineering graduate of the University of Oklahoma, she has spent more than 19 years with the company in process engineering, operations, and EHS leadership roles. Deeply committed to STEM outreach and community service, she supports National Chemistry Week, youth education programs, and local nonprofits.



Lacy Hamilton | Phillips 66

Lacy is Senior Manager of Analytical Solutions at Phillips 66, where she has spent 16 years applying expertise in analytical chemistry, mass spectrometry, and analytical forensics to complex technical challenges; she previously served as R&D Laboratory Supervisor and Lab Operations Manager. A dedicated ACS volunteer, she has long supported National Chemistry Week through STEM outreach and volunteer training, and advocates for STEM education that expands opportunities for future scientists and engineers.