# 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.