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.