

The Accelerator
INDIANA SECTION OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY



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A SNAPSHOT OF 2024

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WELCOME NOTE - 2025

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ACTIVITIES

**ACS COMMUNITY EVENTS AND
NEWS**

Snapshot of 2024

- **BSU's Science Day:** Held on April 13, 2024, at Ball State University, this event saw over 35 volunteers and 125 public attendees engaging in science activities.
- **2024 USNCO Exam Results:** Indiana Section students excelled, with two students making it to the Top 20 and another earning high Honors.
- **Juneteenth Celebration & Chemistry of Fireworks:** Hosted by the Indiana Local Section Committee on Minority Affairs, this event on June 19, 2024, combined education on Juneteenth and the chemistry of fireworks with hands-on activities and a fireworks show.
- **White River Clean Up:** The White River Clean-Up event was scheduled for September 15, 2024. Participants paddled down the White River, cleaning up the environment along the way.
- **Leadership in National ACS Governance:** Four members from the Indiana Section have been appointed as committee chairs for the National ACS governance, showcasing the section's impact on the ACS community.

Editor's Desk



As we step into 2025, I am filled with optimism and excitement. The past year has been a journey of growth and remarkable achievements. In this new year, we are committed to bringing you insightful and engaging content that informs and inspires.

Thank you for your continued support and readership. Together, let's embrace the opportunities and possibilities that 2025 has to offer.

Wishing you a year filled with joy, success, and meaningful moments.

Warm regards,

Rachna Chaddha, Editor

Inspiring Change: Honoring Dr. King's Vision

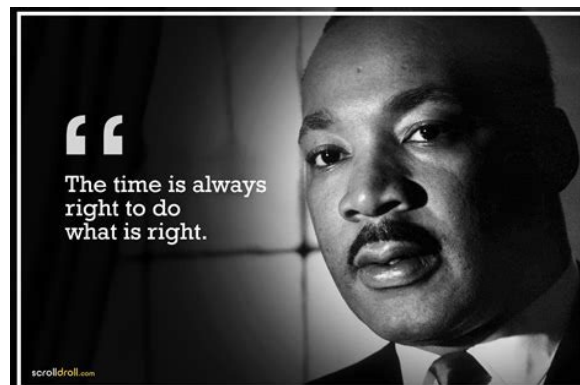
Dr. Martin Luther King's thoughts about science

Recently, we celebrated Martin Luther King, Jr. birthday. He was born on January 15, 1929. Though Dr. King was best known as the leader of the 20th century civil rights movement, he had also been instrumental in leading the way for social and political reforms that had a big impact on science.

The civil rights movement advocated for not only social change, but laws to guarantee and protect equal rights regardless of race. Dr. King believed that science and religion could coexist, he felt that science provided knowledge whereas religion gave wisdom. His work with public outreach and political advocacy led to legislation advancements in the 1970's for restricting air and water pollution and protecting endangered species.

Dr. King's speeches and sermons, specifically his *letter from a Birmingham Jail* set the tone for the modern environmental justice movement. Unfortunately, pollution and the impacts of climate change hit poor and marginalized communities the hardest. Through the 1960s and 1970s, some people tried to argue against racial integration and equality by claiming that some races had smaller brains and therefore less intelligence than others. King defeated them by citing the work of actual anthropologists.

King warned that science, without a moral compass, could bring doom as easily as it brought progress. As a minister, King was explicitly talking about religion as the source of that moral compass. It is believed that Dr. King's thoughts and ideas about the balance between science and morality are embedded in the foundation of science today. It is important that Dr. King's call for a scientific conscience must remain relevant as science evolves.



Leading Light Award

Congratulations to Belgin Canturk from Process Chemistry at Corteva Agriscience, Crop Health R&D in Indianapolis, for being honored with the 2024 Leading Light- Risk-Taker Award! The Leading Lights Awards celebrate Women and Hi-Tech, aiming to inspire young girls to pursue STEM careers through mentorship, hands-on experiences, and role models who demonstrate the vast opportunities in these fields. Belgin is a shining example of this mission.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Dr. Canturk is an active member of the American Chemical Society (ACS), Indiana section. She has spearheaded numerous outreach initiatives, including National Chemistry Week at the Children's Museum of Indianapolis and the ACS booth at the Celebrate Science Indiana STEM festival for many years. Her efforts have greatly enhanced public understanding and appreciation of chemistry, particularly among young audiences.

Dr. Canturk's continued role as a judge for the ACS Illustrated Poem Contest and her participation in various other activities underscore her dedication to STEM education. Having worked alongside her at these events, I have seen firsthand her exceptional ability to engage and inspire children. She has a unique talent for making complex scientific concepts accessible and exciting, fostering curiosity and enthusiasm among her young audience.



Congratulations
Belgin Canturk!

Leading Light Risk Taker Award– 2024

Belgin Canturk
Corteva Agriscience
Process chemistry
Crop Health R&D
Indianapolis, IN



A shout out

Westfield H.S. educator awarded grant for innovative teaching



Photo provided by Westfield Washington Schools

Posted By: The Reporter November 2, 2024

Congratulations to Westfield High School chemistry and physics teacher Kevin Morse for being awarded a FORUM Foundation Educator Grant from FORUM Credit Union. He received the grant for a project combining AP chemistry & AP art classes.

The project will create a cross-curricular opportunity for students in chemistry and art classes. During the time following the AP exams and portfolio submissions, AP chemistry and AP art students will be combined to explore the intersection of art and science in the context of history.

Students will do chemical synthesis and extraction experiments to create five to seven historical color pigments. These are hands-on reactions in the lab, turning chemicals into paint. They will learn the chemistry behind the reactions and the significance of the specific colors/paints in history.

After creating a full color palate, students will design and create a full watercolor painting using the colors they created.

Award Night -2024

Congratulations to the Indian section of the American Chemical Society (ACS) for receiving five prestigious awards! This remarkable achievement highlights the dedication and excellence of its members in advancing the field of chemistry. These awards are a testament to the innovative research, impactful community outreach, and outstanding professional development efforts of the section. Kudos to everyone involved for their hard work and commitment to making a difference in the scientific community! 🏆



List of Upcoming Events

1. Chemistry of Coffee: 1/26/25 @ Blue Mind Coffee Roasting:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-chemistry-of-coffee-tickets-1144385581079?aff=oddtcreator>
2. CWD Symposium: 1/28/25 @ IUI Lilly Auditorium
3. Chemistry of Cosmetics: 2/12/25 @ Centerpoint Brewing – DAY OF VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
4. Registration link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/acs-wht-and-scc-present-chemistry-of-cosmetics-tickets-1091724299769> code: ACS21225
5. Hoosier Science and Engineering Fair: 4/5/25 @ IUI – DAY OF VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
6. STEAM Night: 4/15/25 @ Lynhurst 7th and 8th grade center, 5:30pm Virtual - DAY OF VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
7. PREDICT Webinar: 4/18/24 @ Virtual - DAY OF STUDENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
8. UNSCO Exam: Q2
9. Project SEED Bootcamp: May and July - DAY OF VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
10. Baseball Night: Q3 @ Indian's Stadium
11. TLaM: Q3 @ UIndy - JUDGES NEEDED
12. CSI: Q4 @ Indiana State Fairgrounds - DAY OF VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
13. Illustrated Poem Contest: Q4 - JUDGES NEEDED
14. ProYou: Q4 - DAY OF VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
15. Awards Night: December @ TBD - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
16. Circularity in the Economy: TBD