

Dear Colleague,

2/14/14

On behalf of the Jacksonville Section of the American Chemical Society (ACS), I am pleased to announce that we will be participating in the 2014 U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad (USNCO). The primary goals of this program are to stimulate interest in chemistry among high school students throughout the United States and to provide recognition of outstanding young chemistry students, teachers, and schools. We ask for your help by nominating two students from your school to participate in this year's competition.

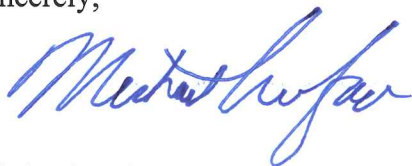
Students competing in the USNCO are eligible to be selected to represent the United States at the International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO). For the past thirty years, the United States has sent a team of four students to compete with nations around the world at the IChO. The students participate in both theoretical and laboratory examinations over several days. Gold, silver, and bronze medals are awarded to the best performers, and the IChO provides students the opportunity to interact with their peers from other countries. This year's IChO will be held in Hanoi, Vietnam on July 20-29, 2014.

My immediate task is to encourage you and your students to participate in this program. The identification of the four-member U.S. team starts at the local high school system. It is the responsibility of the Jacksonville Section of the American Chemical Society to identify ten students from this area to participate in the USNCO national examination on Saturday, April 26, 2014 at the University of North Florida. In order to identify these ten students, we are conducting a preliminary screening of students through teacher nominations. **We encourage you and your colleagues to nominate up to two students from your high school by providing their names to Michael Lufaso at jaxacssection@gmail.com by March 2, 2014.** Once we have received the nominations from all of the local high schools willing to participate, the Jacksonville Section of the American Chemical Society will distribute a local examination to participating high school teachers. We ask each high school teacher to administer the local USNCO exam to the two nominated students and return the examination answer sheets to the Jacksonville Section of the American Chemical Society by March 28, 2014. The ten highest scoring students will be asked to participate in the USNCO national exam on April 26, 2014 at the University of North Florida.

All students who participate in the USNCO national examination on April 26, 2014 will be recognized and presented with a certificate; some students will receive recognition and cash prizes for their outstanding performance. We hope this recognition will serve to stimulate interest in chemistry and to promote a positive attitude towards chemistry.

I strongly encourage you, your students, and your school to participate in this academic Olympiad. We greatly appreciate your help and efforts in promoting and fostering chemical education in this country. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Michael Lufaso

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