

January 5, 2018



Dear Colleague,

On behalf of the Jacksonville Section of the American Chemical Society (ACS), I am pleased to announce that we will be participating in the 2018 U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad (USNCO). The primary goals of this program are to stimulate interest and achievement 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 students from your school to participate in this year's competition.

My immediate task is to encourage you and your students to participate in this program. 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 21, 2018 at the University of North Florida. In order to identify these ten students, we have decided to conduct a screening of students through teacher nominations and preliminary exams. **We encourage you and your colleagues to nominate up to four students from your high school by providing their names to jaxacssection@gmail.com by February 23th, 2018.** Before nominating we ask that you confirm with your students that they are available April 21 to take the national exam should they qualify. 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 nominated students and return the examination answer sheets to the Jacksonville Section of the American Chemical Society by March 28, 2018. The ten highest scoring students will be asked to participate in the USNCO national exam on April 21, 2018 at the University of North Florida. Although four students may take the exam no more than two students from a particular high school may qualify for the national examination. The national exam involves three parts administered to more than 1,000 students across the nation. Students can use past National Exams available at www.acs.org/olympiad to prepare.

All students who participate in the USNCO national exam on April 21, 2018 will be recognized and presented with a certificate; the top 150 students nationally receive recognition for outstanding performance at the national level. Students competing in the USNCO are eligible to be selected as members of the United States team for the International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO), which will be held in Prague, Czech Republic, July 19-29, 2018. We hope this recognition will serve to stimulate interest in chemistry and to promote a positive attitude toward chemistry.

I encourage your school to participate in this academic Olympiad. Thank you for helping promote chemical education in this country. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Lufaso".

Michael Lufaso, PhD

Councilor and USNCO Coordinator, Jacksonville Section of the American Chemical Society

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