

Orange County American Chemical Society Education Committee



Dear High School Chemistry Teacher,

January, 2018

The Orange County Section of the American Chemical Society is once again pleased to invite First Year Chemistry students from about 90 public and private high schools to participate in the 54th annual ACS First Year Chemistry Examination. Every school that participates has a winner! Your school is allowed to send up to eight students who are in their first year of Regular, Honors, or IB Chemistry.

Students in their first year of chemistry at an AP or IBHL level are NOT ALLOWED to take the First Year Test, only the Local Section ACS Olympiad test.

This year's ACS Examination will be held on **Saturday, April 28, 2018**. Once again, CSU Fullerton has generously offered the use of their facilities for this event.

Students are required to bring a #2 pencil. **NO CALCULATORS ARE ALLOWED!** (Note that this year we will allow cell phones, but they must be turned off during the exam. Students will be disqualified if their cell phone goes off during the test, or if they are found accessing their smart phone for information.) All students are asked to report to the south side of McCarthy Hall at **8:45 a.m.** where the room assignments are posted. **Report to the assigned room before 9:00 am with your photo ID. Without a photo ID students will be permitted to take the exam, but will not be recognized as a winner unless a legitimate ID is provided before the end of the exam.**

The exam, which consists of 90 multiple choice questions, will begin at 9:00. The content is based on the SAT II standards. Students who arrive later than 9:10 will not be allowed to take the test. Students should be finished about 11:00. There are no bathroom breaks!

As coordinator for your group, you are asked to do the following:

- **Teachers** must select the students and submit their names all at one time. Be sure these students can and will attend the event. We are expecting more than 300 students to take the exam.

No late registrations accepted. DO NOT SEND "SUBSTITUTES" on the morning of the exam.

- Between the dates of Monday, 4/9/18 (8am) and Friday, 4/20/18 (11:59 pm), register your students on our website. TYPE www.ocacs.org into the address field, click on the **Education** link near the top, then click on the icon for **High School First Year Chemistry Exam**, and then on the **Application Form** button.

The website will accept NO REGISTRATIONS after Friday, 4/20/18 at 11:59 pm.

If you miss the deadline by a short amount of time, please contact Sanda Sun at ssun@ivc.edu.

Please make copies of the enclosed map for your participating students, or retrieve a map from the CSU Fullerton website: www.fullerton.edu. Saturday parking is free in the parking structure at Nutwood and State College Blvd, adjacent to McCarthy Hall.

- On the day of the exam, please send your school's ACS plaque with a responsible student. We will collect the plaques at the registration table. *If you have not participated before, we will make a plaque for you. Please contact Carol Grimes at cgrimes@gwc.cccd.edu.*

We will notify you about the results of the exam by mail during the week after the test. We will also be sending to you and your first place winner an invitation to be guests (with both dinners paid for) at the ACS banquet to be held on Tuesday, 5/22/18, at CSU Fullerton.

The Bruce Davis Award will be given to the top scorer(s) in the county. If there is a tie then multiple winners will be honored. The top student from each school will have his/her name engraved on the school's perpetual plaque, and will be invited to the awards dinner in May as noted above, along with his/her teacher.

Each school will be allowed to send up to 8 students to the exam. The point total (number of questions correct) for the **top 5 students** from each school will be added to obtain a score for each participating school. Plaques will be given for the **top six**

school scores at the awards banquet, and each plaque will include the names of the top 5 student competitors. The plaques will be presented to the top scorer from each school and his/her teacher. All five students and their teacher(s) will be invited to the awards dinner.

We strongly discourage sending only one student to this exam, which is designed to be an internal competition among your school's students. If only one student takes the exam, s/he will receive a certificate of participation, but may not be acknowledged as your "best" student on the school plaque. If you feel that there is a good reason why your school is entering only one student (who should be recognized as the best student from your school, please file an appeal with Carol Grimes at cgrimes@gwc.cccd.edu.

Ties for the team awards will not be broken. However, only six plaques will be awarded each year. For example, if two teams tie for third then two third place plaques will be given and no sixth place plaque would be given. However, if two teams tie for sixth the tie will be broken based on the following criteria. The first tiebreaker will be for number of students competing. Schools with more students competing (up to the eight allowed) will finish ahead of those with fewer students competing. The second tiebreaker will be based on the score of the highest scoring student on the team. The school with the highest scoring student wins. The third tiebreaker is the score of the second highest scoring student on the team. The school with the highest score for the second highest scoring student wins.

If you have any questions about the exam, contact Sanda Sun: ssun@ivc.edu

Sincerely,



Carol J. Grimes, Ph.D. e-mail: cgrimes@gwc.cccd.edu
Chair, Education Committee, Orange County ACS