

Chair of Community Service

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Fall 2017--As the coordinator and chair for the Community Activities for the Virginia Section of the American Chemical Society, we ran our National Chemistry Week event which focused on why chemistry rocks. It was held on Sunday October 29th at the Science Museum of Virginia. The VA Section had area chemists, professors from colleges and universities, and students from colleges, high schools and middle schools in central Virginia working with children on how chemistry is involved in fossils, geology and environmental sciences. The Section wanted to focus on how chemistry was more than mixing chemicals together but chemistry is interdisciplinary. It covers every aspect of life. We breathe chemistry, eat chemistry, wear chemistry and walk on chemistry. The world was chemistry. Chemistry was life. Demonstrations included looking at the elements on the periodic table, making fossils, buckyballs, looking at carbon, making bath salts, slime, superballs, magnets, electricity, water cycles, snow, fog, tornado bottles, crystal structures, and crystal fractures, erupting a volcano, making lava lamps, looking at chemical reactions and fluorescent rocks among other activities. Children were given science bags filled with activities such as growing crystals from Dolomite, Pop rocks, rock candy and science booklets on the periodic table and the current ACS NCW brochure. Teachers were given superball packages, dolomite sets, rock candy, and other theme appropriate materials. School of Rock was also at the event playing songs over the decades and helped show that Chemistry "rocks"! 30 different activities that were a mix of "hands-on" experimentation, demos and experiments for children of all ages to take home. This event brought in 780 visitors to the museum and 60 volunteers. The channel 6 news also came and interviewed us and we promoted our ACS Slogan—Chemistry is Life.

In addition to this event, Reynolds Community College's Chemistry and Geology department put on an ACS "webinar-in-a-box" event. We had a huge event with over 130 students from area colleges attend at Reynolds. Virginia Commonwealth University also hosted the event which added an additional 13 people to the Virginia audience. The webinar was a live interactive lecture on how Chemistry was part of our everyday lives. At Reynolds, pizza, rock candy, pop rocks and chocolate bars, and snacks were served as well as had hands on visuals and demos of rocks and how they pertain to our everyday lives. We also gave prizes away including fossil kits, crystal digs, beaker mugs, etc.

Lastly, our ACS group helped with the Longwood AXE Fraternity at the College Carnival early October making superballs.