

ACS Virginia Section Younger Chemists Committee Chair Report: 08/27/2022

Saturday, August 27th, 2022 from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Virtual Format: Zoom

Submitted By: Julian Bobb, Chair

Vision Statement

Younger leaders transforming the world through chemistry.

Mission Statement

Advocate for, develop, and support rising chemists to positively impact their careers, the ACS, and the future of chemistry.

2022 ChemLuminary Awards

Outstanding Continuing Public Relations or Communications Program of a Local Section Award (Day in the Life of a Chemist Series) shared with the Eastern New York, Northern New York, Rochester, and Philadelphia Local Sections.

Outstanding or Creative Local Section Younger Chemists Committee Event Award (Eastern US YCC Symposium and Chemistry Career Expo) shared with the Eastern New York, Northern New York, Philadelphia, St. Louis, Rochester, Nashville, North Carolina, Indiana, Chicago, Puerto Rico, and the Connecticut Valley Local Sections.

Executed YCC Events for 2022

- **Virginia American Chemical Society Younger Chemists Committee / Northeastern National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers Diversity and Inclusion / Professional Development Workshop**

The VA ACS YCC / NE NOBCChE DEIR Workshop was a two-day, virtual event spanning five hours across two consecutive Saturdays in early April of 2022. These workshops aimed to provide awareness and open dialogue about diversity and inclusivity in school and the workplace, especially in the field of STEM. It provided insight on creating positive, inclusive environments and offered tips and skills for professional development. The discussions included crafting a CV/resume employers will love and strategies to leverage during job hunting while maintaining a focus on diversity, equity, inclusion, and respect in the workplace. Keynote speakers Elissia Franklin and Darryl Boyd discussed their personal and

professional journeys, sharing insights that resonated deeply with the audience members. A mixed panel of ACS and NOBCChE members, including Drs. Dorothy Phillips, Kimberly Agnew-Heard, Natalie LaFranzo, Victoria Parker, Kevin Iлека, Julian Bobb, and Ms. LaKeshа Perry also shared their experiences in a guided panel discussion. Following the panel discussion, breakout rooms were utilized to provide participants with an interactive space to engage with panel members. The panelists moved breakout rooms throughout the session to allow participants an opportunity to interact with all panel members. **About 65 people attended.** This event was attended by a more diverse group of STEM professionals than is typical for VA ACS YCC events. The workshop achieved its aim of reaching minority groups (Black, LatinX, South Asian, women) in STEM to promote their professional development. About 90% of participants ranked the event as excellent and indicated that they would be interested in attending future VA ACS YCC events focused on DEIR, professional development, networking, and self-care.

- **Tour and Tasting Richmond Blue Bee Cider**

On June 24 from 6:30 – 8:30 PM, the YCC hosted a Tour and Tasting at Blue Bee Cider in Richmond. About 21 people attended this event which includes chemistry and chemical engineering students from various schools (VCU, UVA, Mary Washington, RMC etc) and early career professionals. This was a great networking event.

- **Day in the Life of a Chemist Series by the Eastern US YCC Partnership**

Younger Chemists YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEJgX28mFQPEGW4eNH6Wvgw>

Day in the Life Series thus far:

About 20 – 20 people joined virtually.

- Chemistry Entrepreneur (46 views on YouTube)
- Synthetic Chemist (138 views in YouTube)
- Analytic Chemist (65 views on YouTube)
- Crime Scene Chemist (33 views on YouTube)
- Crystallographer (29 views on YouTube)
- Remote Chemist (27 views on YouTube)

Planned YCC Events for 2022

- Student Affiliate Chapter Collaborations:
 - Planning to host various programs at local universities and colleges student affiliate chapters
 - We are working with the student chapter at Virginia State University to host an event – career panel session
- ACS Virginia Mentorship Program:
 - Will launch the 2022 – 2023 mentorship program later this Fall.
 - Working on recruiting mentees (college students / early -career professionals)
 - Sent out a flyer to recruit Mentors through the Northeastern Regional NOBCChE section. About 15 people volunteer to be Mentors from across the Northeastern region
 - Working on hosting a meeting with current and new Mentors
- Interdepartmental Chemistry Trivia Night at VCU:
 - Will collaborate with the undergraduate chemistry student affiliate chapter, chemistry graduate student organization, the medicinal chemistry graduate student association, and even the AIChE student chapter to host a join trivia night event