

Connections to Chemistry 2014

The Fifteenth Annual Connections to Chemistry program took place at Burlington High School (Burlington, MA) on Wednesday, October 15th, 2014. The program is aimed at connecting high school chemistry teachers with the educational resources of the American Chemical Society. Each registrant participated in two of four different workshops which included a National Chemistry Week themed workshop on “Determining Total Acid Content in Sour Candies” (given by Dr. Teresa Marx and Dr. Christine Jaworek-Lopes, Emmanuel College), a presentation on “Size, Scale, and Quantity in Chemistry: How Small Things Make Big Problems” (given by Prof Wesley Bernskoetter of Brown's Chemistry Dept and the Center for the Capture and Conversion of CO₂ (C⁴)), a workshop on “Modeling in the NGSS as a Core Scientific Practice at the Heart of a new Foundational Science Course” (offered by Daniel Damelin of The Concord Consortium) and a workshop on “Scaffolding Inquiry in Spectrophotometry” (given by Valerie Lechtanski and Jennifer Smith, Hopkinton High School). Fifty registrants attended.

The participants were welcomed by Marietta Schwartz, Connections Program Chair and Chair of the NESACS Education Committee. Ruth Tanner, Past Chair of NESACS and of the Education Committee, discussed the newly created American Association of Chemistry Teachers.

Following the workshops and dinner (highlighted by the traditional baked apples with caramel sauce), the keynote address was given by Morgan Pilkenton from Living Proof, Inc. His talk, entitled “*The Chemistry of Beautiful Science*” gave an overview of the chemistry behind the beauty industry, following the development of a shampoo from conception to shelf and all the steps along the way. His address was followed by the traditional raffle of American Chemical Society items, augmented to the delight of the audience by “goodie bags” from Living Proof.

All of the participants received a one year's subscription to ChemMatters, an award-winning magazine for high school chemistry, published by the ACS. Participants also received copies of the *Journal of Chemical Education*, *Chemical & Engineering News*, and *The Nucleus*.

Marietta Schwartz

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50 Years