

Connections to Chemistry 2013

The Fourteenth Annual Connections to Chemistry program took place at Burlington High School (Burlington, MA) on Wednesday, October 16th, 2013. 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 “Artificial Photosynthesis: A Workshop on Solar Cell Design” (given by Dr. Jonathan Rochford, UMass Boston), a presentation on “Hands-on Climate Change Science for Your Classroom” (given by Dr. Jerry A. Bell from the American Chemical Society), another National Chemistry Week themed workshop on “Electric Vehicle Powered by Renewable Energy” (offered by Dr. Deyang Qu, UMass Boston) and a workshop on “Inquiring Minds Want to Know: Recent Lab Practicals from the US National Chemistry Olympiad” (given by Mr. Steven Lantos, Brookline High School). Thirty-five registrants attended.

The participants were welcomed by Marietta Schwartz, Connections Program Chair and Chair of the NESACS Education Committee..

Following the workshops and dinner (highlighted by the traditional baked apples with caramel sauce), the keynote address was given by Dr. Bell. His talk, entitled “*Energy: Now and Forever?*” gave an overview of the ACS Climate Toolkit and the basics of global climate change, why we should be informed on it, and what we can do to make sure that there is, in fact, a “Forever”. His address was followed by the traditional raffle of American Chemical Society items.

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*.