



August 21, 2020

Dear Local Section Officers:

Are you aware that two large groups of ACS members and underrepresented racial and/or ethnic groups are significantly understated in the pool of nominees for ACS national awards, especially for those awards that are based solely on outstanding technical achievements? In 2020, about 41% of the ACS membership was employed in industry, only **5%** of the nominees for the **44** technical awards for the **2021** award cycle were chemists or chemical engineers working in industry. Similarly, 32% of the employed membership is female, yet for the **2021** award cycle only **14%** of the nominees for the technical awards for the 2021 award cycle were women. Of the nominees who provided demographic data for the 2021 award cycle's technical awards, only **22%** were from underrepresented racial and/or ethnic groups.

In recent years, the Society has made efforts to encourage the nomination of individuals from groups not commonly named as recipients of ACS awards such as:

- Women
- Underrepresented racial and/or ethnic groups
- Chemists from industry
- Chemists from National Laboratories
- Faculty members at universities not well-represented in the ACS Awards Program

Furthermore, **45%** of the ACS national technical awards had only one or no female nominees during the 2021 cycle. Clearly, this underrepresentation of chemists/chemical engineers and women in the ACS Awards Program needs our collective continued attention.

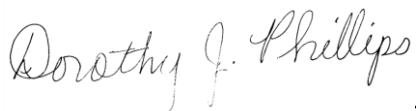
If you know of other individuals from groups not commonly recognized by the ACS National Awards Program, such as minorities and the national laboratories, please have them nominated for an award. Your actions will demonstrate that the Society is committed to the pursuit of excellence in the chemical sciences by recognizing, promoting, and honoring outstanding contributions regardless of the researcher's gender, race, ethnicity or employer.

The American Chemical Society needs your help in addressing this situation. Through the symposia and workshops sponsored by your local section, you have become aware of individuals who are doing outstanding work. Please make a special effort to have these individuals considered for nomination for an ACS award. The deadline for submitting a nomination package is **November 1** at www.nominate.acs.org.

We would also appreciate receiving any suggestions that you have that would improve the ACS national award process.

We sincerely appreciate your assistance and support in assisting the ACS Board Committee on Professional & Member Relations (P&MR) in maintaining the high integrity of the national awards. If you have any questions or concerns you may contact Ms. Felicia Dixon, Senior Manager, ACS National Awards Office at 202-872-6283 or at f_dixon@acs.org.

Sincerely,



Dorothy J. Phillips, Ph.D., ACS.F

Chair, ACS Board Committee on Professional & Member Relations

<https://cen.acs.org/acs-news/comment/Advancing-ACS-core-values-DIR/98/i22>

<https://cen.acs.org/careers/diversity/Shining-light-outstanding-contributions-women/96/i24>