

**ACS Local Section Annual Report Part IV  
ChemLuminary Award Nominations**

**Local Sections: Chicago, Decatur-Springfield, East Central Illinois, Illinois Heartland, Illinois-Iowa, Joliet, Mark Twain, Rock River, Southern Illinois, and St. Louis (10 sections)**

**Award Category: Outstanding Continuing Public Relations Program of Local Section**  
(Select a category from the list and complete a separate form for each entry)

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**Description of Activity/Program:** Please provide a synopsis of the activity/program and **state clearly, in 1,000 words or less, why the activity/program merits consideration** for this particular award. Only activities/programs that were held in 2007 are eligible for consideration. You may wish to include the following in your description: Name of Activity/Program; Date Conducted; Site/Location; Number of Participants. Please refer to the specific guidelines for each award. **Descriptions are limited to 1,000 words or less.**

**Illinois Sections Cooperative State Fair Project:** For the fourth consecutive year, the ten ACS Illinois Local Sections have sponsored a tent at the Illinois State Fair in Springfield, IL. During this year's state fair, August 10-19, 2007, more than **10,900 visitors** stopped at the tent in the Conservation World area of the park. To publicize this project, press releases were sent to every member of the Illinois Legislature, all the state constitutional officials and the mayor of Chicago. Press releases were also sent to 51 Illinois newspapers and postcards invited teachers that visited in 2006 to return this year. Some politicians and/or their families visited the tent. We also received communication from some Chicago politicians expressing interest in our activity and thanking us for such an outreach endeavor.

During the Fair, a variety of literature for students, teachers, governmental officials, and the general public to take home on fun chemistry-related activities and on commonly-used products was available on the display tables and in the literature racks. The literature provided information on such topics as environmental issues and green chemistry, educational resources, food science,

and safety at home and work. Other materials handed out included ACS "Hooray for Chemistry" bags, engraved pencils with our project's website, UV-sensitive cards, and wallet periodic tables.

There were display boards with a variety of posters on topics such as chemical safety in the home, inventions, periodic charts, and biographies of women and minority chemists. There were new, continuous chemistry demonstrations for children of all ages and hands-on activities for small children.

For the 360 teachers that visited the tent, there were special "teachers' bags" containing a CD with over 150 experiments suitable for young students, CPDU sign-up sheets, a rain gauge, and other ACS resources. This year we also automated the teacher registration, so they would register at a computer terminal in our tent rather than fill out a paper registration sheet prior to receiving their bags. This made it easier and more attractive for the teachers.

Other activities included a daily raffle of an ACS stuffed toy mole (to the first teacher that visited each day), an expanded interactive computer science quiz, an online opinion survey on a second computer terminal, and handing out of paper hand fans with our project's website (new this year). The hand fans were a big hit since it's HOT in Springfield in August!!

The use of computer terminals for the teachers' surveys and the tent opinion surveys helped our Planning Committee collate responses and improved our ability to generate statistics on the profiles of our tent visitors. 130 tent surveys were completed. Results indicate that the majority of the visitors were from the central part of Illinois and were mostly students and teachers. A majority of the visitors gave high marks for all the tent activities and indicated they would like us return in 2008.

The activities within the tent impacted a large number of visitors ranging from young children to adults representing a wide range of education and occupations and allowed Illinois chemists to communicate the value and fun of chemistry.

The website initially established for the 2004 cooperative ACS Illinois Sections State Fair project was updated and maintained for the 2007 activity. The website is <http://membership.acs.org/C/Chicago/statefair/index.html>. The website includes information regarding planning committee meetings, a listing of all of the Illinois ACS Sections with links to each section's home page, online sign-up for volunteers to work the tent, the chemistry quiz, the link to the full listing of educational resources on the CD, descriptions of the experiments done in the tent, an list of our sponsors, and photos.

Keys to the success of this project were: the collaborative work of our Illinois sections; the positive response from various Illinois politicians and from the general public; financial support from ACS, local businesses, local sections, and individuals; ACS and other organizations that donated display materials, give-aways, lab and other supplies, and/or services; volunteers' time and talents; and the enthusiastic attitude we brought to this project that was reflected in the type of activities we made available and our personal interactions with the public at the Fair.

Photos are on the website <http://membership.acs.org/C/Chicago/statefair/>.

Please provide a 2-3 sentence abstract that describes your activity. The 10 ACS Illinois Local Sections sponsored and staffed a tent at the Illinois State Fair for the fourth consecutive year. This project promoted the positive aspects of chemistry to more than 10,900 visitors. Inside the tent were hands-on experiments, chemical demonstrations, literature, several handouts, a computer quiz, and a CD for teachers with over 150 experiments suitable for young students. Visitors gave us high marks and generally indicated they would like us to return in 2008.

Please include a photograph (digital preferred) that shows the event/activity in action. Photos from winning local sections will be displayed as part of the ChemLuminary Awards AV production.

