

## ACS Local Section Innovative Project Grants Program

Sponsoring Local Section: Kentucky Lake

Submission Date: June 26, 2008

Name of Project Coordinator: Edith J. Banner

Contact Information (address, phone number(s), e-mail):

Murray State University

456 Blackburn Science Building

Murray, KY 42071

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Name of Section Chair: Sandra Thompson

Support letter attached? Yes

Has the Section previously applied for an IPG? Yes

Submission date: 2004

Does the Section currently have an IPG? Yes

Date Awarded: 2007

Title: Safety in the Chemical Workplace (originally: Safety in the High School Laboratory)

Coordinator: Keith Butler

Final Report submitted? Yes

Co-sponsoring Local Section(s) (if applicable): n/a

Support letter attached? n/a

Co-sponsoring Division(s) (if applicable): n/a

Support letter attached? n/a

Co-sponsoring Committee (if applicable): n/a

Support letter attached? n/a

Co-sponsoring or participating external (non-ACS) group (if applicable): n/a

Support letter (encouraged but not required): n/a

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Name of Proposal & Brief Description: Women in Chemistry: Career Symposium

This symposium will utilize the experiences of the women members of the Kentucky Lake Section to illustrate the career opportunities for women in the chemical sciences to high school and college students, teachers and colleagues.

Full Description of Project or Event: (maximum 2 pages)

With 28 female members, the Kentucky Lake section of the American Chemical Society has determined that the establishment of a Women Chemists Committee would be beneficial. In 2007, the Kentucky Lake Section Women Chemists Committee (KLS-WCC) was formed with two members, Vicky Moeller and Edie Banner, as co-chairs. In 2008, the current section chair, Sandra Thompson, has joined in the efforts to organize and launch the KLS-WCC. The goals of the KLS-WCC are to address the needs, concerns and interests of female members of KLS, to increase female membership in the Kentucky Lake Section, and to provide community outreach activities geared toward building interest in the chemical sciences amongst female college and high school students, teachers and colleagues.

With this Innovative Project Grant, a series of meetings will occur to organize the KLS-Women Chemists Committee and plan and present an event to the community to showcase the careers of the women of our section and encourage women to consider careers in the chemical sciences. The KLS-WCC will engage in an organizational meeting, a symposium planning meeting and host the "Women in Chemistry: Career Symposium" as outlined below:

1. The organizational meeting will be held at the University of Tennessee at Martin in October 2008. The Chemical Heritage Foundation exhibit, "Her Lab in Your Life: Women in Chemistry," is on display in the university's Paul Meek Library and will provide a fitting venue for the female membership of the Kentucky Lake Section to meet and exchange ideas. The objectives of this meeting are to:

- a) Obtain input from the KLS female membership in order to define the needs, concerns, and interests of the female membership of the Kentucky Lake Section.
- b) Develop recruiting strategies to gain new female members targeting high school and college students, as well as our colleagues in industry, academics and government.
- c) Introduce the project/program "Women in Chemistry: Career Symposium" and recruit volunteers from the current membership to form a planning committee for the symposium.
- d) Solicit career profiles of the current female membership to put together a portfolio of the women members of the Kentucky Lake Section.

2. The "Women in Chemistry: Career Symposium" planning meeting will be held in January 2009 at Lambuth University (tentative) in Jackson, TN. The objectives of this meeting are to:

- a) Organize the symposium agenda, select speakers and decide on ancillary sessions: discussion groups, workshops, etc.
- b) Determine responsibilities and designate leaders.
- c) Prepare a detailed time line.

3. The "Women in Chemistry: Career Symposium" will be held in the spring of 2009 (March~April) at Murray State University, Murray, KY. A series of talks by women members of the KLS-WCC on their careers will provide an opportunity for students to see what professional chemists from the region do. This will be capped off by a keynote address from an appropriate invited speaker from the region. In addition, career development activities will be provided for high school and college students. Literature about career opportunities, career development, and ACS membership will be provided to the attendees. Incentives to gain new members include a commemorative t-shirt and the awarding of student (4) and professional (2) ACS memberships.

Snacks and beverages will be served at the planning meeting and the symposium. An outside source of funds is being explored to be able to provide a

luncheon during the symposium. Travel assistance toward mileage reimbursement will be available for non-member participants and speakers for the symposium.

**Anticipated Program Impact:**

It is anticipated that the inspiration, guidance and career advice provided at this symposium will encourage high school and college students to follow a career path in the chemical sciences. The close interaction of the participants in this symposium will foster communication and provide the opportunity to build a mentoring network. In this way, students, teachers and colleagues will be encouraged to become members of the American Chemical Society.

Budget (must include specific line-item entries) if total budget exceeds \$3,000, please indicate source of additional funds:

1. Travel assistance for (non-member) participants	400.00
2. Snacks for planning meeting and the symposium	200.00
3. Travel assistance for speakers (~6)	300.00
4. Hotel and travel for keynote speaker	500.00
5. Marketing: Advertising, postage, newsletters, ACS-WCC brochure printing	150.00
6. Handouts, prizes	
a. Exhibit booklet / Career Profiles booklet	250.00
b. ACS memberships: Student - 4 at \$38.00; Professional - 2 at \$136.00	424.00
c. T-shirts	250.00
7. Thank-you gifts for speakers	120.00
8. Contingency	250.00

Total \$ 2844.00

**Evaluation Plan:**

The KLS-WCC members involved with this event will fill out an evaluation form based on the planning and execution of the symposium. The participants in the Career Symposium will be asked to fill out an evaluation form relative to their experience and provide comments about the usefulness of the symposium and provide input for future symposia. This feedback will be evaluated by the Kentucky Lake Executive Committee and a report will be relayed to the National ACS Office of Local Activities.

A letter of support from the Kentucky Lake Section Chair, Sandra Thompson, is attached.

Please note that a letter or e-mail of support from the current Chair of the local section and co-sponsoring ACS units must be included to complete your application. You are encouraged to submit both your application and the support letter as a single Word or .pdf file.



## American Chemical Society

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Kentucky Lake Section  
Sandra Thompson  
Chair

June 25, 2008

Re: KLS-ACS Innovative Project Grant proposal

Grant Approval Committee:

As chair of the Kentucky Lake Section of the American Chemical Society for 2008, I fully endorse Dr. Edie Banner's proposal for an Innovative Program Grant.

A program such as the one she has planned would greatly improve the involvement of our female ACS members, as well as promote the newly formed Women Chemists Committee. The planning meetings would encourage discussion and communication amongst the women in the section by providing them an opportunity to meet and socialize. With the planning of the event, their participation in KLS-ACS would grow.

Also, the "Women in Chemistry: Career Symposium" would help encourage high school and college students leaning towards chemistry as a career path. They would be provided with the opportunity to hear first hand what a career as a chemist would be like in any sector. They would also be provided with career development tips which would ease their transition from student to employee.

Overall the program would be beneficial in steering young students toward a career in chemistry and female chemists toward involvement in the society.

Sincerely,

Sandra Thompson  
2008 KLS-ACS Chair