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Award Recipients Announced by The Midland Section of the American Chemical Society

The Midland Section of the American Chemical Society (ACS) celebrated 2022 award recipients on May 4, Star Wars Day. In a festive, Star Wars themed, in person event, over 80 were recognized for excellence in education, community service, membership, innovation, and service to the chemical profession.

Diana Deese, Awards Chair, was happy to return to an in-person event. “This 31st banquet feels special after so many virtual events. It is great to get to celebrate the great accomplishments of so many people in person” she said. Joel McDonald, current Chair of the Midland Section, also commented on the awardees and the event. “This year’s awardees really demonstrate the great people and great things happening in the area. They also highlight the STEM outreach that is such a large part of what the ACS does.” said McDonald. “This is a great program and a great event. Diana and the team really demonstrated that the Force is strong in mid-Michigan.”

A particularly noteworthy award is the Outstanding Achievement and Promotion of the Chemical Sciences presented to Dr. Richard K. Helling, recently retired Associate Director for Sustainability and Life-Cycle Assessment at Dow Chemical. Helling is being recognized for his commitment to development and implementation of tools to better assess and guide actions in the industry that will lead to more sustainable products and processes. In addition, Helling is noted for his mentorship and commitment to efforts of the ACS Green Chemistry Institute and the American Center for Life Cycle Assessment.

Students and teachers are recognized by the largest group of awards. The awardees are drawn from within Isabella, Gratiot, Midland, Saginaw, and Bay counties.

Educators recognized for Outstanding Achievement include Lori Hall (Herig/Zilwaukee) for Elementary Level, for Middle School from Jefferson in Midland, Michael Graves and Jennifer Lehman, from Northeast in Midland, Victoria McPeak, Rebecca Stinson and Megan Konkol. Jessica Schwarz of Valley Lutheran in Saginaw was recognized at the High School level. Tami Sivy of SVSU was the Outstanding College Chemistry educator. Dale LeCaptain of CMU is this year’s Education Volunteer.

Students from four local colleges received Outstanding College Chemistry Student Awards. From Alma, Margaret Hanna and Megan E. Schornack, from CMU, Kaylee Jaksa, Alan H. Weible, Payton A. Wolbert, and Emma I. Placzek, from Delta, Jack Kukulis, and from SVSU, Alivia Barres and Caleb Whittaker.

Outstanding High School Chemistry Students recognized are Breanna Lango (All Saints), Moritz Richter (Alma), Hailee Jefferson (Arthur Hill), Isabella Martindale (Bay-Arenac Community), Ashley Young (Bay City Central), Alyssa Burger (Bay City Western), Emma Carlson (Beal City), Meghan Oberski (Birch Run), Julia Rowe (Breckenridge), Sanaii Liles (Bridgeport), Quinn VanZile (Bullock Creek), Caleb Hughes (Calvary Baptist), Michelle Weber (Carrollton), Elizabeth Kelsey (Coleman), Ty Murray (Coleman), Logan Lipka (Frankenmuth), Noah Black (Dow), Alexander Light (Hemlock), Brynn Bootsma (Ithaca), Adam Reno (Glenn), Nathan Rowe (Merrill), Faith Persyn (Midland), Rojie Wang (Mt. Pleasant), Sarah Parashar (Saginaw Arts & Sciences), Anna Lator (Shepherd), Adam Klump (St. Charles), Maya Schnorenberg (Swan Valley), Zack Blazejewski (Valley Lutheran).

Certificates of achievement for the annual Chemistry Olympiad competition were given to Joseph Crachiola (Saginaw Arts and Sciences), Leah Jankoska (Bay City Western), Jacqueline Ko (Mt. Pleasant), Thomas Ladwein (Dow) and Devlin Wieszcencinski (Saginaw Arts and Sciences).

The Chemical Technician community is especially strong in the Midland area. The Outstanding Chemical Technology Student for 2022 is Collin M. Clark of Delta College. Four Dow employees were recognized as Outstanding Chemical Technicians, Duane Vance, Matt Crimmins, Carl Reinhardt, and Ben Schaefer.

In addition, 50-, 60- and 70-year members were recognized, as were a number of volunteers. A full list of the awards and recipients can be found at awards.midlandacs.org and a more complete summary will appear in the May *Midland Chemist* (midlandchemist.org).