



Dear AP Teacher,

March, 2020

The Education Committee of Orange County American Chemical Society, with the support of our local section board, has made the difficult decision to cancel (for the first time in more than 50 years) the awards dinner due to COVID-19 concerns. Although the school winners for the first round of the Chemistry Olympiad exam have been determined, the uncertainty of being able to put on an awards dinner in the midst of this public health concern means that we will need to cancel this yearly event.

We will send certificates for top student from each school and the top 6 teams, as well as a certificate and gift card reward for the Margaret Carlberg Award (top Olympiad student overall) to students sometime in May. We will save the plaques that were turned in at the first exam and have them engraved next spring along with the 2021 winners. Plaques for the top 6 school teams will be engraved and sent.

We do not know as yet whether the second round exam will be given as scheduled on April 25, 2020, at Vanguard University. This is for a small group of 12 or 13 students, and we have not been informed about whether Vanguard will be open for us, nor have we received any guidance from national ACS. We will communicate with the teachers who have students who qualified for this round when we have more information.

If you have any questions, please contact me at [cgrimes@gwc.cccd.edu](mailto:cgrimes@gwc.cccd.edu)

Thank you for understanding our decision. We hope most sincerely that we will see your school participating in 2021.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "CJG", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Carol J. Grimes, PhD  
Chair, Education Committee, Orange County ACS  
Professor of Chemistry Emerita, Golden West College