

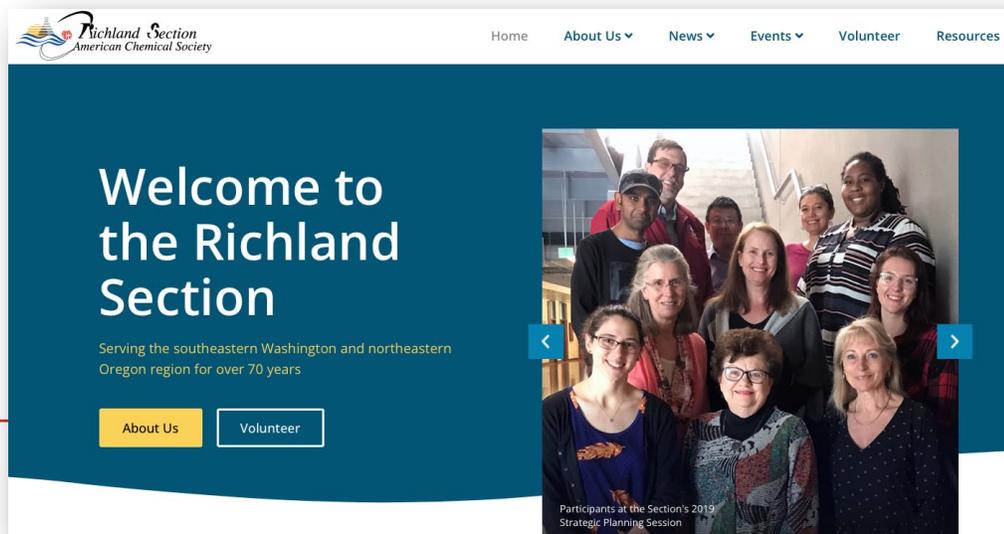
## 2022 SECTION OFFICERS VOTING INSTRUCTIONS

The election for officers of our local ACS Section will be conducted electronically. The ballot will be sent to the email address you provided to ACS in your "Yellow Book" member registration. You will receive an email with a link to a survey. Simply follow the link to see the ballot where you can vote for each position. The voting process is very straightforward and will take about one minute. Note that the ballot has the option for write-in candidates, per our bylaws. **The last day votes will be accepted is November 12, 2021.**

For those members who do not have an email address registered, you are receiving a paper ballot with this newsletter. Any member who wishes to vote with a paper ballot may request one by contacting Mariefel Olarte at [mariefel.olarte@pnnl.gov](mailto:mariefel.olarte@pnnl.gov)

Please return the ballot by November 12, 2021.

**PLEASE VOTE  
YOUR PARTICIPATION  
IS APPRECIATED!**



## ACS RICHLAND LAUNCHES ALL NEW WEBSITE!

The Richland Section has a new website! The new website replaces an old one that had not seen a major update in at least twenty years. With enhanced and dynamic features like mobile friendly adaptive layouts, easy and accessible navigation for everything from updating your contact information to digging through past newsletters is available in just one click from the home page.

The website replacement was identified as a major goal at the strategic planning meeting of Section members in 2019. The new website was built by Sharon Betterton, the same web designer who worked with the Section on the website for NORM2018, and funded in part by a national ACS organization grant.

The new website offers great appearance and functionality. It will definitely aid communication within the section. You are invited to visit the new website and see for yourself!

[WWW.ACSRICHLAND.ORG](http://WWW.ACSRICHLAND.ORG)

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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2022 Slate of Officer Candidates  
Nominations Open for 2022 Esselen Award

# PRESENTING THE 2022 SLATE OF CANDIDATES

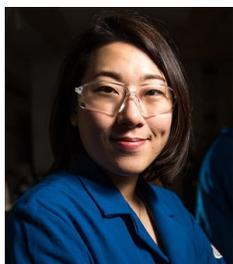
## CHAIR-ELECT *Deepika Malhotra*



Deepika Malhotra grew up in a city located near the foothills of Himalayas in northern India named Chandigarh. She received her Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry from the University of Louisville, Kentucky in 2014. She is a Scientist in the Advanced Energy Systems Group at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL). Her research at PNNL is

focused on design and synthesis of modular solvent for carbon dioxide capture and acid gas separations. She has been a member of the ACS for the past eight years and has participated in national/local conferences as an oral presenter, session presider, and symposium co-organizer. She has been actively involved with the local Richland ACS section for the last five years and has served as a Treasurer for the Richland Local Section for the past three years (2019–2021). She was Fundraising Chair for the ACS 73rd Northwest Regional Meeting (NORM) held at PNNL in June 2018. She looks forward to the opportunity to step into the role of Chair-Elect and support our broader local community by advancing a diverse and inclusive culture especially in these unprecedented times.

## TREASURER *Katherine Koh*



Katherine Koh (Ph.D. and B.A, Rutgers University) is a material chemist at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. She designed and synthesized the inorganic nanostructures for hydrogen storage materials and energy storage materials during her Ph.D. She moved to Richland, WA for her postdoc (Pacific Northwest National Laboratory) and did an

inorganic catalysts synthesis for electrocatalytic hydrogenation of biomass products. She has actively volunteered as a STEM ambassador and in other volunteer programs. Her ACS membership has been more than seven years and now she wants to join as Treasurer to help the local community.

## CHAIR-ELECT *Lucas Boron-Brenner*



Lucas Boron-Brenner is a Chemist in the Energy and Environmental Directorate (EED) at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL). He received a B.S. in Chemistry from the University of Maryland, College Park, and a Ph.D. in Radiochemistry from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. His research at PNNL

has focused on developing automated systems for medical isotope separations, and the analysis of gaseous products from reactor fuels.

Lucas has been a member of the American Chemical Society since 2016, the local ACS chapter since 2019, and has participated at national meetings as a presenter. Before joining PNNL in 2018, Lucas was active in organizing outreach events through his student sections of the American Nuclear Society, and Alpha Chi Sigma Professional Chemistry Fraternity.

## TREASURER *Whitney LaMarche*



Whitney LaMarche is the Engineering Manager for Veolia Nuclear Solutions-Federal Services, LLC reporting to the Vice President of Engineering. She has a B.S. in Chemistry from Western Washington University and a M.S. in Mechanical Engineering-Material Science from Washington State University. She

is currently a member of the Tri-City Chamber of Commerce, Columbia Basin College Foundation, and American Chemical Society-Richland Section.

In her current role as the Engineering Manager, her primary responsibilities include responding to requests for quotation for task order-based contracts, resource programming and management of their task assignments, and acting as the interface between project manager, project resources and the customer.

From a business line perspective, she develops, monitors and measures progress against contract budgets, schedules and resources as well as ensures projects are to the customers' expectations. She establishes, maintains, forecasts and trends budgets against fiscal year and calendar year forecasts providing business line representation to senior staff, customer, and contract management.

Her current role in budget preparation, forecasting measuring and monitoring are transferable to her desired role as Treasurer. Her communication skills and customer services skills will allow her to foster a trusting transparent leadership approach to current and future members of the society.



# PRESENTING THE 2022 SLATE OF CANDIDATES CONT'D

## SECRETARY *Shirmir Branch*



Shirmir Branch is a Chemist at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. She joined the Nuclear Chemistry & Engineering group at PNNL from the University of Cincinnati in 2018, where she received her PhD in analytical chemistry. The focus of her research at PNNL involves separations techniques in various media, and molten salt chemistry and spectroscopic monitoring development. She has been a member of the ACS since 2009 and has participated in national, regional, and local meetings as a presenter and event organizer. She has been involved in the local Richland Section since 2016 and currently serves as the Section's secretary. She has participated in several outreach events with the Tri-Cities. She is a founding member of the local Women Chemists Committee and currently serves as the committee chair.

## SECRETARY *Uriah Kilgore*

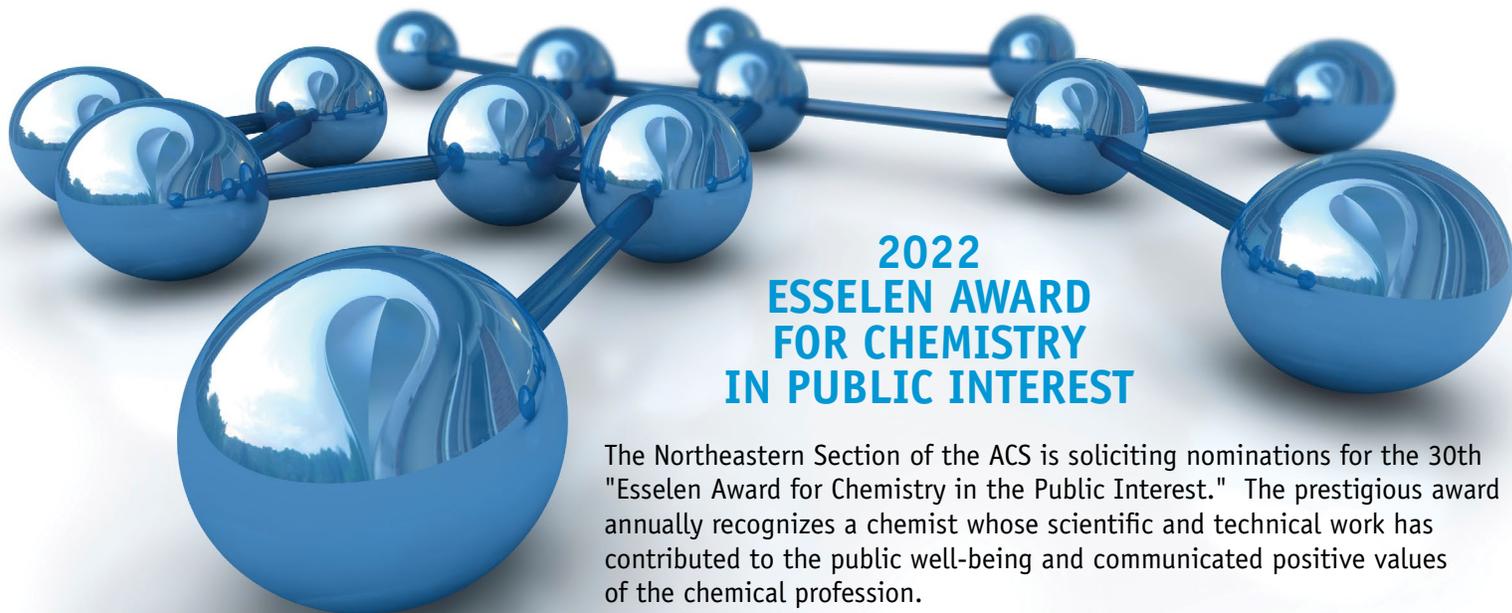


I am a Chemist working in the Chemical and Biological Processing group at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. I earned my Ph.D in Inorganic Chemistry at Indiana University in 2009. Following my PhD, I was fortunate enough to work as a post-doc at PNNL in the PCSD from 2009 to 2011 researching molecular electrocatalysts. My postdoctoral period was a great experience that I look back on fondly. Following my postdoctoral research, I spent ten years in chemical industry. When the opportunity to return to PNNL as staff presented itself, I was very happy to make the move. My research at PNNL is currently focused on sustainable transportation fuels; I also contribute to projects supporting biomass conversion and hydrothermal liquefaction. It has been refreshing to contribute to projects which move us to a sustainable energy future. I am eager to contribute to the local community of chemical scientists. Serving in the ACS Richland Section is a great opportunity to do just that. I would be honored to serve as the Secretary of our Local Section.

**PLEASE VOTE**  
YOUR PARTICIPATION IS APPRECIATED!



**BALLOTS DUE**  
**NOVEMBER 12<sup>th</sup>**



## 2022 ESSELEN AWARD FOR CHEMISTRY IN PUBLIC INTEREST

The Northeastern Section of the ACS is soliciting nominations for the 30th "EsseLEN Award for Chemistry in the Public Interest." The prestigious award annually recognizes a chemist whose scientific and technical work has contributed to the public well-being and communicated positive values of the chemical profession.

**SEEKING  
NOMINATIONS**

The deadline for nominations is October 15, 2021 to Karen Allen at [DrKAllen@bu.edu](mailto:DrKAllen@bu.edu) with CC to [JPiperGrady@gmail.com](mailto:JPiperGrady@gmail.com). Award recipients will be notified by January 31, 2022. Inquiries may be directed to the above or to Dr. Karen Allen, Tel. (617) 358-4178 or Jeananne Piper Grady, Tel. (617) 620-8315. Address: 11 Thaxter St., Hingham, MA 02043. More information concerning the award may be found at [http://www.nesacs.org/awards\\_esselen.html](http://www.nesacs.org/awards_esselen.html).

Additionally, information on a wide variety of ACS awards can be found at <https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/awards.html>

## FAMILY GAME NIGHT A VIRTUAL SUCCESS



OLIVA PRIMERA-PEDROZO

The Richland Local Section of the American Chemical Society held our first virtual Family Game Night on Friday, April 16, 2021. It was organized by the Program Committee and hosted by Dr. Oliva Primera-Pedrozo (PNNL) and Dr. Hilsamar Felix Rivera (UPR-Bayamón). Nine families discovered the fun of chemistry through the hearts paper chromatography activity and reviewed the elements with the Periodic Table Bingo game. Congratulations to our Bingo winner, Chelsie Beck!



OLIVA PRIMERA-PEDROZO



Maria Sushko



Angela Beehler



OLIVA PRIMERA-PEDROZO

# RICHLAND SECTION PARTNERS WITH PASCO FOR INNOVATIVE COVID TRAINING

## *Exploring COVID-19, Explorando COVID-19 at Isaac Stevens Middle School*

During Spring 2021, the Richland Section of the American Chemical Society hosted the first virtual bilingual outreach program on April 23, 2021 at Isaac Stevens Middle School at Pasco, WA. A total of 374 7th grade students participated in hands-on laboratory activities. Following a pre-recorded video by our volunteers, students built a 3D model of the COVID-19 and made their own hand sanitizer. The ACS Diversity, Inclusion, and Respect Grant and the Richland Section supported this activity with a financial contribution of \$3,329.46.

This innovative event was made possible by the hard work of our enthusiastic volunteers: our event coordinator Cristina Padilla, Mariefel Olarte, Deepika Malhotra, Anna Cavinato, Sonia Alcantar, Shirmir Branch, Laura Meyer, Britt Robertson, Kristin Omberg, Sandy Fiskum, Oliva Primera, Angel D. Padilla and Yolanda Olivera.

The results of the post-event survey were very positive. Survey questions included: *Did you learn something new about Covid-19? Did you think the activities were interesting? How satisfied were you with the event?*

Some of the comments received were:

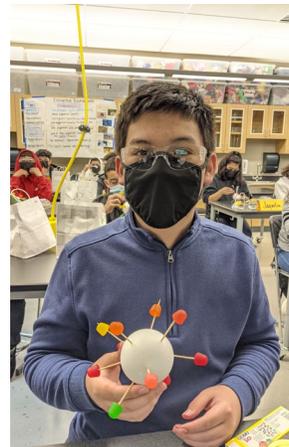
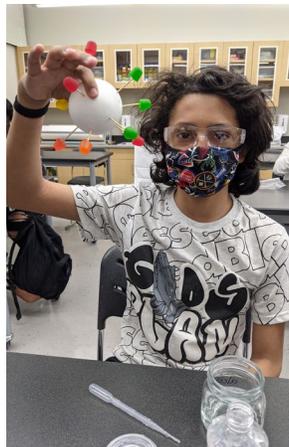
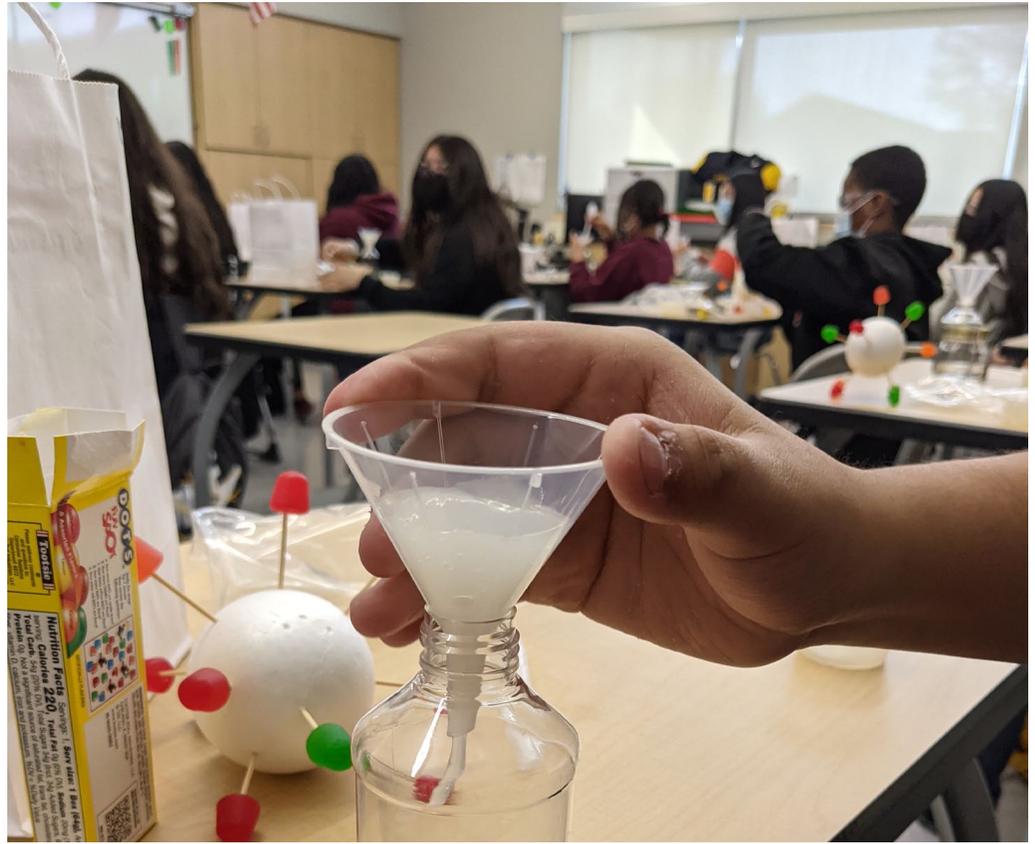
***My favorite part was making the Covid model.***

***My favorite part was when we were mixing the aloe vera and rubbing alcohol together.***

***My favorite part was putting the things in the bottle and shaking it.***

To see more pictures, go to:

[https://www.instagram.com/p/COJs30CHcNd/?utm\\_source=ig\\_web\\_copy\\_link](https://www.instagram.com/p/COJs30CHcNd/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link)





"THEREFORE, WHEN IT BURSTS, THE BUBBLE GUM WILL NOT STICK TO YOUR NOSE."

Cartoons often have many possible levels of interpretation and extrapolation. As I look at this Sidney Harris cartoon, I see many possibilities. One is as follows: The cartoon shows a department chair (far right) accompanying the university provost (far left) of international fame for his analysis of the humor in Anton Chekhov's short stories, presenting a plaque to a chemistry professor in recognition of her election to the National Academy of Sciences. The citation reads "In recognition of her seminal computational studies on the rheological properties of elastic polymers under stress: Why bubblegum bubbles break." The department chair wonders if he will ever be recognized for the elaborate custom apparatus that he designed to confirm the computational studies.

– Yvonne Connolly Martin, Abbott (retired)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**OCTOBER 12, 19, 26 FROM 5:30PM–6:30PM**  
**GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS TRAINING ON ZOOM**

Kristin Omberg: [kombergmiller@gmail.com](mailto:kombergmiller@gmail.com)

**OCTOBER 17–23**  
**NATIONAL CHEMISTRY WEEK**

**NOVEMBER 5**  
**VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEMBER SOCIAL**

Mariefel Olarte: [Mariefel.Olarte@pnnl.gov](mailto:Mariefel.Olarte@pnnl.gov)

**NOVEMBER 12**  
**SECTION ELECTION BALLOTS DUE**

**NOVEMBER 16**  
**ACTIVE BYSTANDER WORKSHOP**

Mariefel Olarte: [Mariefel.Olarte@pnnl.gov](mailto:Mariefel.Olarte@pnnl.gov)

## GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS TRAINING



# WE NEED YOU

...to Talk to Your Elected Officials!

**H**ave you ever wondered how science affects policy? Or how policy affects science? Or why they aren't better integrated? Our elected officials deal with a myriad of issues, and science can get lost in the shuffle. This is compounded by a communication gap between scientists and politicians. The American Chemical Society has a wealth of resources available to help. We're launching the **Richland Local Section's Government Affairs Committee (GAC)** to empower you to connect with your elected officials. We're holding three one-hour virtual meetings to prepare you, culminating in organized meetings with your members of Congress.

The meetings will leverage ACS's virtual **Chemistry Advocacy Workshop**: <https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/policy/memberadvocacy/acs-chemistry-advocacy-workshop.html> and **Advocacy Toolkit**: <https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/policy/memberadvocacy/advocacy-tools.html>

By participating in the meetings, you will learn:

- the value of advocating for chemistry and your role in it
- how to locate ACS and external resources to support advocacy activities
- how to successfully advocate for chemistry

The meetings will take place October 12, 19 and 26 from 5:30–6:30 pm on Zoom, and will be recorded and posted on the local section website. After the meetings, we'll set up virtual or in-person meetings for you, other local section members and your members of Congress. To register, go to <https://american-chemical-society.zoom.com/meeting/register/tZYod-6gpz8vHNU7xVozucsSpktQBbXR06Jj>.

If you'd like to get involved but can't make these dates, you can watch the recordings or go through the workshop independently using the link above. You can also contact Kristin Omberg, Local Section Government Affairs Committee chair, at [kombergmiller@gmail.com](mailto:kombergmiller@gmail.com) with any questions.

LEARN MORE ONLINE AT [WWW.ACSRICHLAND.ORG](http://WWW.ACSRICHLAND.ORG)