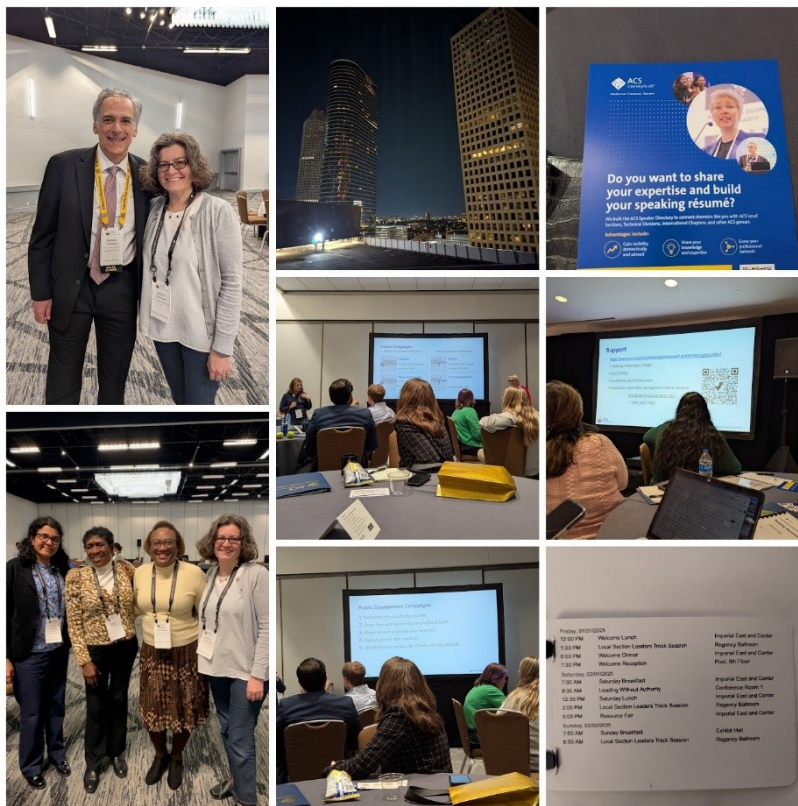


LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Date: January 31st -February 2nd, 2025- Houston/ Texas



Attendees:

Ayse Gul Yavuz Cular, Chair- Elect 2025

Sunita Thyagarajan, Vice Chair 2025

Activities

Both Ayse and Sunita attended the welcome lunch on the first day where the attendees were informed of the details of the Leadership conference. Following this, Ayse and Sunita attended Local Section Leaders Track Sessions.

- We attended the session on Science Outreach which was presented by the Office of Science Outreach. Some activities they shared that could be of interest to the community are the following:
 - Celebrating Chemistry
 - NCW and CCEW
 - USNCO
 - Activity Library

- Luminary Awards for Local Sections
- Illustrated Poem contest
- Public engagement campaigns
- Chemistry Olympiad
- We also attended a session on increasing community engagement through volunteering.

Some aspects discussed were the following:

- Budgeting
- Measuring success
- Volunteer motivation
- Invitation and communication with audience
- On Day 2, Sunita attended the session on *Collaboration across Boundaries*



- This session provided useful information on challenges and expectations when collaborating between different groups or offices

-On Day 2, Ayse attended the session on *Leading Without Authority*

- This session focused on how to work with other volunteers without being their supervisor. How to encourage young chemists to join ACS local sections. There were a couple of interactive activities that helped practice leading without authority.
- The Local Section Leaders Track Session in the afternoon showcased the various offices and divisions across ACS who could help and support the local sections. Select local sections who received Luminary Awards were asked to share their success stories at the end of the session. This too was very helpful in terms of ideas we could use for our local section.
- On Day 3, the Local Leaders Track session was an interactive event where attendees were asked to participate in activities in small groups to interact and work with each other.
- In addition to these workshops, Ayse and I got to meet with the Editor of C&EN News and the past chair, present Chair and Chair elect of ACS. We also met other local leaders and shared ideas and plans for our local divisions. The leader from Norther California and from New York State (Maria Contel) have offered to share their resources with us to increase community engagement. Also, we met Marta Gmurczyk from the Office of Safety Programs. She said she would be happy to share newest trends and developments in safety (in academic and corporate lab settings) with our local section via zoom. We had a short conversation with Allison Aldridge, current President of Chemical Society of Washington. Allison mentioned that their local section would like to bring 2028 Reginal Meeting to DMV area, and this might be a collaboration opportunity with Maryland Local Section.