



# Successful Activities

Maryland Section 2018

## MY STORY

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## JANUARY EVENT

On a weekend in late January after a week of blustery cold in Baltimore, I travelled to the comparably balmy Dallas, TX to attend the 2018 ACS Leadership Institute. Although I earned a doctoral degree in Chemistry fifteen years ago, and have extensive teaching experience and an active research group and publication record, I was looking forward to the Leadership Institute to further develop the leadership skills that I was not trained in as part of my technical education with the goal of better serving our local section.

I currently serve as an elected Alternate Councilor for the Maryland Section of the ACS and as a member of the Executive Committee. I have volunteered in

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our local section for the past five years and have been offered the opportunity to plan section meetings including Women Chemists and social events centered around chemistry and to plan a technical session at the upcoming MARM regional meeting.

The Leadership Institute consists of both elective and “required” sessions as well as meals with other regional and national leaders and informal networking. The first session was directed at local section volunteers like myself and included sessions on getting acquainted with leaders from our region and planning successful section activities. This was followed by workshops on Funding Section Events, Social Media, and Communicating with Your Members. For the subsequent sessions on the second day, I elected to take *Leading without Authority and Engaging and Motivating Volunteers*.

As a person with a naturally introverted personality, I felt I could learn a lot from both of these courses and I was not

disappointed. ACS knows how to train its members, leaders and volunteers and does it well. The courses encourage participation, contain valuable material and are taught by trained, “professional” ACS instructors.

I gained “best practices” information from attending the Leadership Institute including ideas for new programming, expanding our engagement with our section members, and a new mid-Atlantic network to draw from to collaborate on new activities. I plan to take additional ACS Leadership courses online through the ACS Center for Professional Development now that I am back in Maryland; these are open to all (including non-members).

I am grateful to the Maryland section for nominating me to attend and giving me this opportunity and to the ACS for investing in us.

Contact:  
Dr. KELLY ELKINS, Assistant Professor.  
Towson University Chemistry  
Department, Smith Hall, Room 561  
Phone: 410.704.6217  
Email Address: [kmelkins@towson.edu](mailto:kmelkins@towson.edu)  
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Information at  
[www.maryland.sites.acs.org](http://www.maryland.sites.acs.org)