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Dear Colleague,

As chairman of the Ames Section of the American Chemical Society (ACS), I am pleased to announce that we will be participating in the 2000 U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad (USNCO). The primary goals of this program are to stimulate interest and achievement in chemistry among high school students throughout the United States and to provide recognition of outstanding young chemistry students, teachers, and schools.

Students competing in the USNCO are eligible to be selected as members of the United States team for the International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO). For the past fifteen years, the United States has sent a team of four students to compete with nations around the world at the IChO. The students participate in both theoretical and laboratory examinations over several days. Gold, silver, and bronze medals are awarded to the best performers, and the IChO provides students the opportunity to interact with their peers from other countries. The 2000 international event will be held in July 2-11, 2000, Copenhagen, Denmark.

My immediate task is to encourage you and your students to participate in this program. The identification of the four-member U.S. team begins at the local school system level. It is the responsibility of the Ames ACS section to nominate students from this area to take the USNCO national examination. In order to identify these students, we have decided to conduct a preliminary screening of students through Local Section Examinations to be administered by high school chemistry teachers. This examination is a 60-question multiple-choice test. If you and your students decide to participate, you will be provided with exams and answer sheets; the test time is 110 minutes. We will then choose eight students from this area to sit in a USNCO national examination held on Saturday, April 15 at Chemistry Department of Iowa State University.

I encourage your school to participate in this academic Olympiad. All students who participate will be recognized and presented with a certificate; some students receive recognition for outstanding performance in certain categories. We hope this recognition will serve to stimulate interest in chemistry and to promote a positive attitude toward chemistry.

Katya Kadnikova has been appointed the USNCO Coordinator for this area. We encourage you to enter students from your school in this competition by competing and returning the enclosed registration form before **March 20**. Thank you for helping us to promote chemical education in this country. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact either Katya Kadnikova or myself.

Sincerely,

Dr. Joseph W. Burnett, Chair, Ames Section, ACS

Enclosed: Registration Form for Local Section Examination

