

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

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January 10th, 2012

Dear Colleague,

It is our pleasure to invite you and your chemistry students to participate in the **2012 New Mexico State University Chemistry Olympiad Competition**. This event is open to interested high school chemistry students and teachers from schools within the Rio Grande Section of the American Chemical Society which spans a large region of Southern New Mexico and West Texas. The full-day competition will be held on **Saturday, March 31st**, at NMSU's Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. The event begins at 9:15 AM (with registration just prior to the opening session) and concludes at 4:00 PM. Lunch will be provided for all participants. .

All students who participate in the event will be recognized and presented with a certificate. In addition, students may receive recognition for outstanding performance on individual or team events, and the *top performing teams overall will earn cash prizes for their schools!* We hope this recognition will serve to stimulate interest in chemistry and to promote a positive attitude toward science. Finally, top performing students on the written portion of the competition who also meet eligibility requirements will be nominated to participate in the **2012 United States National Chemistry Olympiad (USNCO)**, a competition that will be held on Saturday, April 21st at NMSU and used to select participants in the **International Chemistry Olympiad**.

Details about the Chemistry Olympiad Competition including descriptions of each event are available on our website at <http://web.nmsu.edu/~davsmith>. This information includes a preliminary registration form (with an estimated number of participants, **due Feb. 3rd**), a team roster form (**due March 28th**), a complete schedule of events, instructions for the team and individual events, and links to a variety of USNCO resources including written exams from previous years' local competitions.

We sincerely hope that you and some of your students will be able to participate in this fun and interesting event. Completed preliminary registration forms, available on the website listed above, must be returned to us (preferably via e-mail) by no later than **February 3rd**. If you have any questions, feel free to contact either of us by e-mail (addresses given below) or phone Denise Pedraza in our departmental office at (575) 646-2506.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. David E. Smith
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USNCO Coordinator
ACS Rio Grande Section

Dr. William Quintana
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Chair, Department of Chemistry and
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2012 Chemistry Olympiad Competition: Important Dates

February 3 rd , 2012	Registration Forms Due
March 28 th , 2012	Team Roster Forms Due
March 31 st , 2012	Competition Day!
April 21 st , 2012	USNCO Competition (<i>Qualifying Students Only</i>)

Registration and Team Roster Forms are available from the competition website:
<http://web.nmsu.edu/~davsmith>