
COMMITTEE NAME

Younger Chemistry Education Scholars (YCES)

PURPOSE

The Younger Chemistry Education Scholars (YCES) is a committee dedicated to the recruitment and networking of graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, and early faculty members in chemistry education research. This population is vital to the long-term goals of chemistry education research and we hope will be the future leaders and contributors to DivCHED.

VISION

We want to get the word out about chemistry education research to all chemists. We understand that without recruiting and networking new students in chemistry education research, the field will not be sustainable. Therefore, YCES is dedicated to making sure that students find their way into chemistry education research graduate programs and stay in the field.

COMPOSITION

Graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, and young (1st – 5th year) faculty compose this committee. This committee is ideally composed of a chair for a three-year term and a co-chair during the final year of the chair.

RESPONSIBILITIES

YCES has a long history of re-occurring events held at National ACS and Biennial Conference of Chemical Education meetings. These include:

- Graduate Student Research Forum: A special symposium at conferences that features only graduate student presenters and is organized by graduate students. Being a symposium full of graduate students, many of which are presenting at a national conference for the first time, the audience members are typically directed to provide constructive feedback for presenters so that they can carry out their presentations in a low-stakes environment. This also gives the graduate student organizers an opportunity to preside and organize a symposium by themselves.
- Professional workshops and events: Several workshops are commonly held that help graduate students, postdocs, and faculty apply for jobs, navigate grad school and faculty positions, review materials, provide networking tips, and other professional developments.
- Networking events: These events typically include inviting grad students, postdocs and faculty out to a nearby restaurant at conferences for an evening (or morning) of networking. Specific activities like human bingo and other ice breakers help newcomers meet other people and mix up connections. These are typically catered events.
- YCES Blog: Located on the DivCHED website, the blog is a popular hub for the discussion of many issues and thoughts related to life in chemistry education research. Topics include navigating personal life decisions, professional and technical skills development, career trajectories, and many more.

- CER Undergraduate Poster Award: Jointly sponsored with the chemistry education research committee, YCES assists in the solicitation and judging of undergraduate research posters at national meetings.
- Chemistry education research recruitment booth: YCES annually sets up a booth at the undergraduate fair at national ACS meetings. Our booth does not represent one particular program, but we are there to tell undergraduates that they have the opportunity to do their graduate program in chemistry education research at a variety of institutions. We consistently reach many undergraduate through this channel.

In general, the chair is responsible for the organization of and management of all activities. The chair is expected to delegate all tasks fairly across members and see their completion through. The chair also manages the budget, drafts all reports, and sets the agenda for the meetings.

TIMETABLE

- January – Scout venues for networking events, plan workshops and professional events
- February – Order prizes for events, finalize locations and plans
- March – ACS meetings and events, final prep
- April – ACS meetings and events
- May – BCCE preparation work
- June – Scout venues for networking events
- July – ACS proposal deadlines, BCCE preparation work
- August – BCCE meetings and events
- September
- October
- November
- December – BCCE proposal deadlines; review operations manual (send any changes to Ops Manual to Member at Large)