Years ago, David Chavez was a student from the rural town of Taos, N.M., who took advantage of the American Chemical Society’s Project SEED. Today, he’s an award-winning chemist changing countless lives by introducing students in his hometown to the world of science.

David participated in ACS Project SEED during his sophomore and senior years of high school, working alongside mentors at the Los Alamos National Laboratory. Watching scientists at work opened a whole new world for David as he learned what the life of a scientist was really like and what his career options were.

“I learned that if I worked hard, then I could be someone who worked on cutting-edge science too,” he says.

To pursue his passion for science, David set his sights on attending the California Institute of Technology (Caltech), a goal he wouldn’t have considered before Project SEED.

Continued on Page 2
Project SEED Provided a Path

With a B.S. in chemistry from Caltech and a Ph.D. in chemistry from Harvard, David returned to the Los Alamos National Laboratory—this time as a synthesis chemist working on sustainable products and processes that reduce the impact on the environment. His development of environmentally friendly (high-nitrogen) molecular materials for the U.S. Department of Energy earned him the prestigious Ernest Orlando Lawrence Award in 2011.

Always mindful of the role that Project SEED played in his accomplishments, David is determined to provide opportunities for young people in Taos like those Project SEED afforded him.

“I want to expose students to some aspect of a life and a career that they might not otherwise see,” he explains.

So David reaches out to students of all ages—acting as a mentor, arranging speakers, volunteering in the classroom, teaching classes and serving on the board of education to set policies on math and science curriculums.

“I’m planting the seed in younger students like Project SEED did in me and then, hopefully, they will go out and be like me to others,” David says.

He hopes that his message will inspire the next generation of scientists in his community.
Are You Prepared for 2013 Tax Law Changes?

While your estate is exempt from estate taxes if it is worth less than $5.12 million for 2012, change is not far off.

Come 2013, if Congress doesn’t make more changes, the exemption lowers to $1 million. That means, for every dollar your estate is valued above the $1 million exemption, it will be subject to federal estate taxes (at 55 percent) upon your death. This also means that having an updated will—one that reflects your values and circumstances today—has never been more important. Get started below.

Update Your Will in 3 Steps

**Step 1:** Mark the areas in your current will you’d like to change.

**Step 2:** Meet with an estate planning attorney to draft your new document.

**Step 3:** If you wish, consider discussing changes with us if they affect ACS so we can thank you and carry out your wishes as you intend.

Don’t Forget…

*Update your estate plans for assets not controlled by your will, such as beneficiary designations on your retirement plan assets or life insurance policies.*

Your Next Step

To help you put together a sound estate plan, return the enclosed 30-second survey by **May 15** to receive your **FREE** planning guide, *The Top 6 Questions to Ask Your Estate Planning Attorney.*
Why I Am an ACS Legacy Leader

Retired research chemist and author of *African American Women Chemists*, Jeannette Brown has dedicated her life to chemistry. She also wants to extend her passion for her life’s work by providing future generations with opportunities she didn’t have when she was a student. That’s why she included ACS Project SEED in her estate plans.

“I am opening doors to kids who probably don’t know what it is to be a chemist,” Jeannette says.

Learn how Jeannette is changing young students’ lives in a short video at www.acs.org/legacygiving.

What Your Gift Can Do…

Your gift can be tailored to support ACS Project SEED, which develops scientifically literate citizens and often produces a chemist where there might not have been one. Your support enables more students to participate in this program.

Find out how you can help Project SEED and other ACS educational programs by visiting www.acs.org/legacy.