**Project SEED: An Investment That Changes Lives**

When Luis Mendez enrolled in chemistry class at Union City High School, he never imagined that someday he’d be working as an advanced engineer for ExxonMobil. But after his teacher, Project SEED Coordinator Nadia Makar, suggested he apply for the program, his plans for the future began to take shape.

“Project SEED completely changed my life,” says Luis, who grew up in a disadvantaged, largely Hispanic community where college wasn’t an expectation. “I wouldn’t have gone to college or become a chemical engineer without Project SEED.”

During his second summer of research under the mentorship of Dr. Gordon Thomas at the New Jersey Institute of Technology, Luis discovered his passion for chemistry while researching drug delivery through carbon nanotubes.

“Chemistry got ahold of my life,” recalls Luis. And it hasn’t let go since. “It was

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exciting to realize that we [chemists] can change the world tomorrow with the work we’re doing today.”

Luis’s desire to be a part of these changes led him to pursue a degree in chemical engineering from NJIT.

“Thanks to Project SEED, I got to work at NJIT, which made my college decision easier,” he explains. “I wouldn’t have even looked into or applied to a school like that if I hadn’t had the research experience there.”

“There’s no greater return for your money or your time as a mentor,” Luis says to ACS members. “Project SEED brings fresh perspectives to the field—students who aren’t afraid to think outside the box or don’t even know what the box is.”

An investment in Project SEED not only changes lives as it did for Luis, it changes the future of chemistry.

Project SEED will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2018. Help establish enduring support with a gift to the ACS Project SEED Endowment or by including Project SEED in your will.

Luis with wife, Elaine Gomez, also a Project SEED alum who is a PhD student at Columbia University. Elaine has taken a few Project SEED students under her wing this year.
A Family-First Philosophy
Take Care of Your Own and Then Consider ACS

Supporting the American Chemical Society should never come at the expense of your family’s financial security. Through gift planning, you can choose a method of giving that protects your family’s needs and offers greater tax savings. Here are a few ways you can support future scientists.

• **A gift in your will.** You may find the flexibility of naming ACS in your will or living trust appealing because you can change your mind at any time. By leaving a percentage of your estate to us, gifts to family members and other loved ones remain proportional no matter how your estate fluctuates over the years.

• **Retirement plan assets.** Because retirement plan assets can be heavily taxed when left to family, it can be tax-savvy to leave these assets to ACS through beneficiary designations.

• **Life insurance.** Life insurance is a simple way to make a big impact on the profession. You can leave all or a portion of your life insurance policy to ACS.

• **Charitable gift annuity.** Charitable gift annuities are a strong gift option. Contact us to learn more about this way to give.

Looking for other ways to give to ACS? Please contact Mary Bet Dobson at (202) 872-4094 or m_dobson@acs.org to find a gift that best fits your situation.

Get Expert Help

When you’re reviewing your plans, we recommend that you seek the help of an estate planning attorney. Our FREE guide *The Top 6 Questions to Ask Your Estate Planning Attorney* will help you collect your thoughts before you meet and make the most of your time together. Return the enclosed reply card to receive your complimentary copy.
When you name the American Chemical Society in your will or trust, or otherwise include ACS in your estate plan, we are pleased to name you as one of our ACS Legacy Leaders.

**How to Become a Member**

Please let us know that you’ve included ACS in your estate plan. We look forward to properly thanking you and expressing to you the importance of your gift to the next generation of chemists. We respect your wishes to remain anonymous, if you so choose.

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**Anonymous**, 66-year member, ACS Legacy Leader*

**Franklin Barker**, 69-year member, Central New Mexico Local Section Franklin and Martha Barker Living Trust*

**Kenneth E. Harwell**, 71-year member, Tulsa Local Section Kenneth E. Harwell and Joye M. Harwell Joint Trust

**Margaret Rendall**, 68-year member, Milwaukee Local Section

*Gift designation for ACS Project SEED