Niecia spent two summers in an ACS Project SEED program immersed in the lab at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Her research included spectroscopically identifying methylene blue species in water at different concentrations and characterizing the binding of G-quadruplex DNA to insulin using isothermal titration calorimetry. “These experiences got my foot in the door,” recalls Niecia.

Having made connections to the faculty while in ACS Project SEED, Niecia decided Calvin was the perfect environment to

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explore her passion for organic chemistry. She was grateful to receive an Alfred and Isabel Bader scholarship for her freshman year and ACS Ciba Specialty Chemicals Scholarship because the funding decreased her financial burden and allowed her to focus on her research.

When she applied to graduate school, Niecia felt confident in her research experience thanks to the foundation provided by Project SEED. She is currently pursuing her PhD with the Yoon Research Group at University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she’s researching the photocatalytic [3+2] cycloadditions of aryl cyclopropyl ketones. She’s proud of her role as Chemical Hygiene Officer, leading the lab in implementing best practices in health and safety.

Niecia credits the American Chemical Society for starting her on the path to a bright future in chemistry.

“I wasn’t seriously looking at chemistry or biochemistry until I had the opportunity to work in research groups,” she says. “Project SEED also gave me a chance to see scientists as a close-knit community that works hard together and cares about one another. I’m excited about being in the field.”
Turn Your Annual Gift Into a Forever Gift

Annual gifts are a critical lifeline to the American Chemical Society. Without them, we couldn’t fund the many programs, like Project SEED, that we offer to further the future of chemistry.

If you’re an annual donor, you know firsthand the satisfaction that comes from making a difference—and we deeply appreciate your generosity. But as you look to the future, you may wonder what will happen to the programs made possible through your gifts once you’re gone. How can you make sure your generosity continues indefinitely? One option is to make a gift in your will or trust to establish an endowment or contribute to an existing one.

Here’s an example of how that could work. Let’s say Jerry makes an annual donation of $1,000 and would like to continue his support after his lifetime. His estate planning attorney suggests that Jerry include a provision in his will to fund an endowment with a gift of $25,000. Once funded, we will use a portion of the endowment each year to fund the program of Jerry’s choice. The remainder is reinvested, which allows it to grow and support annual payouts indefinitely. This generous arrangement replaces Jerry’s $1,000 annual gift after his lifetime.* The benefit? ACS receives the benefit of Jerry’s generosity indefinitely.

*Assuming 4 percent ($1,000) is used by the fund annually.

Contact Mary Bet Dobson at (202) 872-4094 or m_dobson@acs.org if you are interested in giving to an endowment that will make your support last indefinitely.

Mix and Match Your Giving

There are multiple ways for you to create a meaningful impact at the American Chemical Society. Learn how to customize a gift to ACS today with one in the future in our new guide, Mix It Up: Combine Your Giving. Simply return the enclosed reply form to learn more.
Family or Charity? The Answer Is Both

Naming the American Chemical Society as a beneficiary in your will is a simple way to enable the future of chemistry. But maybe you’ve hesitated because you’re unsure about how much to give. Fortunately, there’s a solution.

Percentage Giving

Instead of a fixed amount, consider gifting a percentage of your estate or of specific assets. That way, gifts to loved ones and to organizations such as ACS remain proportional—no matter how your estate fluctuates. Here are three simple ways to put family first while supporting the future of chemistry:

✔ Gift a percentage of your estate to ACS in your will.
✔ Leave ACS a percentage of your residual estate (the portion of your estate that remains after all gifts have been made and all claims of the estate are satisfied).
✔ Name the American Chemical Society as a beneficiary of a percentage of your life insurance policy or retirement account.

Every Gift Counts!

Even a small percentage of your estate makes a big impact on us. Contact us to learn more about supporting the future of effective ACS programs while putting family first.

ACS
Chemistry for Life®

1155 Sixteenth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036
Phone: (202) 872-4094
Fax: (202) 872-4604

Mary Bet Dobson, CAP®
Assistant Director for Individual Giving
Email: m_dobson@acs.org
www.acs.org/legacy

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