

**-- For Immediate Release --
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Event to Highlight the Scientific Contributions of Persons with Disabilities

West Lafayette, IN — On March 1, the West Lafayette campus of Purdue University will host a reception to promote two publications from the American Chemical Society, “Teaching Chemistry to Students with Disabilities” and “Working Chemists with Disabilities.” The books will be offered free to the public, including students, educators, and other interested parties.

The reception will be in Room 201 of the Weatherall Building from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Refreshments will be provided.

The event is co-sponsored by the American Chemical Society’s Chemists with Disabilities Committee (CWD), the Beta Nu Chapter of professional chemistry fraternity Alpha Chi Sigma, and educational consulting company Independence Science, LLC.

“People with disabilities have traditionally been underrepresented in the sciences, both in classrooms and careers. This event is designed to raise awareness that persons with disabilities have made many dynamic contributions to the scientific community,” says Cary Supalo, president of Independence Science.

“They overcome many challenges every day as a result of their physical limitations, and so become master problem solvers. Highlighting these problem-solving strengths is the focus of this reception. Such valuable skills can be utilized to pursue careers in the sciences, because science is all about solving problems,” he says.

Supalo, a contributor to the 4th edition of “Teaching Chemistry to Students with Disabilities” and a member of the American Chemical Society’s Chemists with Disabilities Committee, will speak at the event. Supalo is also chair of Alpha Chi Sigma’s Special Needs Committee.

Featured speaker Dr. Joseph Francisco, president of the American Chemical Society and the William E. Moore Distinguished Professor of Physical Chemistry at Purdue, will comment on the many contributions the CWD Committee has made to the chemical sciences.

About Independence Science, LLC

Independence Science, LLC, makes science more accessible to students with blindness or low vision (BLV) through providing consulting services and sales of assistive technologies for use in science laboratory classrooms. The company’s goal is to empower students with BLV to fully participate in science learning. Independence Science serves clients across the United States, including school districts, colleges and universities, state rehabilitation agencies, parents of students with BLV, and the students themselves. The company is located in the Purdue Research Park in West Lafayette.

About Purdue Research Park of West Lafayette

The 725-acre Purdue Research Park has the largest university-affiliated business incubation complex in the country. The park is home to more than 160 companies. About 100 of these firms are technology-related and another 39 are incubator businesses. The park is owned and managed by the Purdue Research Foundation, a private, nonprofit organization created to assist Purdue University in the area of economic development. In addition to the Purdue Research Park in West Lafayette, the foundation has established technology parks in other locations around Indiana including Indianapolis, Merrillville, and New Albany.

Contacts

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Web Sites

Independence Science LLC: <http://www.independencescience.com>
Purdue Research Park: <http://www.purdueresearchpark.com>
American Chemical Society: <http://www.acs.org>
Alpha Chi Sigma: <http://www.alphachisigma.org>