

Public Outreach – A Best Practice

Provided by the [Cleveland Local Section](#)

The Cleveland Local Section is very active in public outreach events. The section feels that their work is to inform the general public of their practice in the areas of Academics, Consulting, Government Regulations, and Manufacturing.

The Section participates in National Engineers Week through discussions of chemical engineers work in a model “Process Display”. They received the [John J. McKetta ProjectConnect Grant](#) for this program, and it is in its third year of application. The Section provides examples of job positions: Project Engineer, Safety Engineer, Controls Engineer, Process Engineer, Production Supervisor, Quality Engineer, or Plant Manager. They also provide examples of sample calculations on unit operations using material and energy balances done on simple MS Excel spreadsheets or complex system evaluations of simulation programs (SuperPro Designer). Visitors are involved through a “Process Jeopardy” game on MS PowerPoint that is very similar to the television show Jeopardy, with the difference that the section only has topics in chemical engineering such as history, fluid flow, thermodynamics, heat transfer, and reactor design.

Responsibilities to the local universities include welcoming them to section meetings and activities as “Young Professionals”, and to help with their transition from student to an employed engineer. This is done by participation in the section’s public outreach events, networking at monthly meeting, and having an awards banquet for them at the end of the academic year. The Cleveland Section honors the students recommended by their faculty advisors for Academic Achievement and Leadership for both the Case Western Reserve University and Cleveland State University students.

Responsibilities to the middle and high schools in the area include inviting them to participate in the judging, selection, and awarding of Environmental and Engineering student winners at the North East Ohio Science and Engineering Science Fair. The section honors the five or six students and their families at their April meeting, by having them present their projects to the local section, and awarding them with a certificate and gifts for their achievements.

The Cleveland Section is active in participating in public outreach events that support the neighbor organization, the American Chemical Society. During National Chemistry Week the section provided 50 scripted theme demonstrations (each had 8 experiments) at schools and libraries in north east Ohio. The Cleveland Section of the American Chemical Society has received six national “Chem Luninary Awards” for this program over the past eight years.