

May 19, 2026

## 2026 SEVENTY SECOND ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP EXAMINATION IN CHEMISTRY

**SPONSOR:** Chicago Section, American Chemical Society: High School Education Committee  
**HELD AT:** Benedictine University, Glenbrook South and Whitney Young Magnet High Schools on Saturday, May 16, 2026  
**AWARDS:** Funds are contributed by the chemical industry and by individuals.  
Teachers of a prize-winning student(s) will receive a one-year membership in AACT.

| <u>PRIZE</u>   | <u>WINNER</u>          | <u>SCHOOL &amp; TEACHER</u>                                |
|--|------------------------|--|
| <b>FIRST</b><br><b>\$5,000 AWARD</b>   | <b>Gabriel Wang</b>    | <b>Kevin Nihill</b><br>University of Chicago Lab<br>School |
| <b>SECOND</b><br><b>\$3,000 AWARD</b>  | <b>Theodore Deters</b> | <b>John Gridley</b><br>New Trier HS                        |
| <b>THIRD</b><br><b>\$2,500 AWARD</b>   | <b>Nia Minumula</b>    | <b>Brandon Tucker</b><br>Glenbrook South HS                |
| <b>FOURTH</b><br><b>\$1,500 AWARD</b>  | <b>Brea Yang</b>       | <b>John Gridley</b><br>New Trier HS                        |
| <b>FIFTH</b><br><b>\$1,250 AWARD</b>   | <b>Baruni Soni</b>     | <b>Michael Comerford</b><br>William Fremd HS               |
| <b>MARIE LISHKA*</b><br><b>\$2000 AWARD</b>  | <b>Nia Minumula</b>    | <b>Brandon Tucker</b><br>Glenbrook South HS                |
| <b>MARSHALL S. SMOLER**</b><br><b>\$1000 AWARD</b>                                   | <b>Dylan Fan</b>       | <b>WenHua Deng</b><br>Whitney Young Magnet HS              |
| <b>BERNAARD E. SCHAAR***</b><br><b>\$1000 Chicago Chemists' Club</b><br><b>Award</b> | <b>Gabriel Wang</b>    | <b>Kevin Nihill</b><br>University of Chicago Lab<br>School |

\*To the highest scoring female in the examination. This award honors *Marie Lishka*, who was an active Chicago Section member for many years. Additional funding for the Lishka award was provided in memory of *Stan Drigot*.

\*\*To the highest-scoring Chicago Public High School Student. His sister, Rachel, established this award in 1972 in memory of *Marshall S. Smoler*. Mr. Smoler was for many years a chemistry teacher in the Chicago public schools.

\*\*\* To the highest scoring Chicago High School student. Mr. Bernard Schaar's widow established this award in memory of *Mr. Bernard Schaar*, long active in Chicago Section, American Chemical Society and the Chicago Chemist's Club.

## HONORABLE MENTIONS LISTED IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

(These students were the next highest performers)

|               |                                   |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| Ryan Alvarez  | Lane Tech College Prep HS         |
| Alex Andrade  | Hinsdale Central HS               |
| Jeffrey Anik  | University of Chicago Lab Schools |
| Jayden Cheng  | Naperville North HS               |
| Alisa Cheung  | Naperville Central HS             |
| Lilia Gao     | Naperville North HS               |
| Kate Mu       | William Fremd HS                  |
| Anna Naidech  | Loyola Academy HS                 |
| Austin Ouyang | Metea Valley HS                   |
| Tanmay Shetty | William Fremd HS                  |

A total of 46 students from 10 schools took the 2026 ACS Scholarship exam. Each chemistry teacher could nominate two students.

Awards will be given to students at the ACS Education Night meeting at Truman College on Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 – 8:30 pm. Award winners and their teachers will be contacted by the Chicago ACS office. All teachers and students are invited and encouraged to attend the ACS Education Night meeting. Teachers who attend the ACS Education Night meeting will receive CPDU credits. Teachers do not have to be ACS members to attend. Register online at <http://membership.acs.org/C/Chicago/meetings/calendaracs.html#next>

*A special thank you to Dr. Tim Marin, Chemistry Professor at Benedictine University; Despina Mandarino, Glenbrook South HS; and Karen Trine, Whitney Young HS for their hosting and proctoring of the exam and Dr. Paul Brandt for authoring and grading the exam. Additional thanks go to those who helped administer the process including Lindsay Consdorf, Sherri Rukes, and Tata Venkata.*

***FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTORS TO THE SCHOLARSHIP EXAM ARE: ACS Chicago Section, Stan Drigot, Dr. Henry M. Walton, Chicago Chemists' Club, and Rachel Smoler.***