

# The Accelerator



#### INDIANA SECTION OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY



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#### CHAIR'S CORNER

Get excited about the fun to come in 2024!

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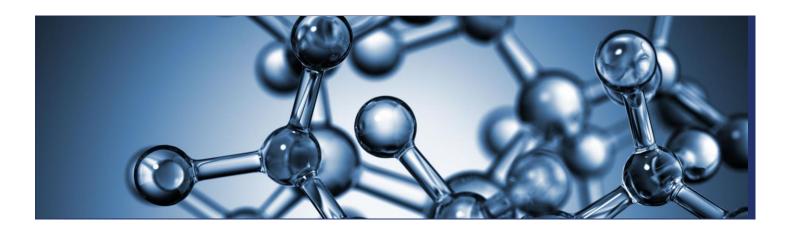
#### **MEET THE TEAM**

Who makes up our leadership team? Read on to find out!

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#### STRATEGIC PLAN

Learn about how our strategic plan was developed and how to get involved.



## **CHAIR'S CORNER**

By: John Rohanna





Dear Esteemed Members of the American Chemical Society of Indiana,

I am honored and humbled to address the constituents of our esteemed local section as the 2024 Chair. It is a privilege to serve such a diverse and dynamic group of scientists who contribute to the advancement of chemistry and other STEM fields.

As we embark on the journey through 2024, I want to express my gratitude for the trust you have placed in me to lead this distinguished organization. Together, we have the opportunity to build upon the legacy of our section and make a lasting impact on the scientific community and society at large.

Our local section is blessed with a rich tapestry of expertise, spanning computational, analytical, organic, biochemists and many others. Each member brings a unique perspective and skill set to the table. It is this diversity that fuels the success of our section, and I am committed to fostering an environment of inclusion and unity.

Drawing from my background as a leader in sustainable chemistry development, I am excited to support our section towards initiatives that address pressing challenges facing our world. One of my ongoing projects involves designing molecules that enhance crop yields while minimizing environmental impact in agricultural settings —a testament to the positive change chemistry can bring to our communities.

In the coming months, you can expect a vibrant array of events that cater to different interests within our section. From educational outreach programs like "Once Upon A Green Classroom" to the thought-provoking "Chemistry of Bourbon" event at West Fork Distillery, we aim to provide opportunities for professional development, networking, and community engagement. Your active participation in these events will not only enrich your professional lives but also contribute to the overall success of our local section.

Moreover, I am deeply committed to expanding our outreach initiatives, with a particular focus on reaching out to disadvantaged communities. Inspired by my own journey from a rural, economically depressed area, I recognize the transformative power of mentorship and education. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of aspiring scientists and ensure that everyone, regardless of background, has the opportunity to explore and pursue a career in STEM.

In the wise words of George Herbert Mead, "Society is unity in diversity." Let us embrace this diversity within our section and use it as a driving force for positive change. I look forward to working collaboratively with each and every one of you to make the Greater Indianapolis region and the entire state of Indiana proud of our contributions to the field of chemistry.

Thank you for your dedication, and I am excited about the impactful journey that lies ahead.

Sincerely, John Rohanna, Ph.D.

## Meet the Team

A section this large cannot function on its own. Let us introduce you to the team that makes our wonderful local section one of the best in the nation! Thanks to each individual for providing bios and photos.

#### **Executive Board**



John Rohanna (2024 chair) graduated in 2010 from the University of Utah earning his Ph.D. in organic chemistry. Currently he is a Technical Program and Sustainability Leader at Corteva Agriscience. John has been a member of the ACS since 2017 holding the position of National Strategy Chairman since 2019 in preparation for the Spring 2023 National Meeting held in Indianapolis in March 2023. John, hailing from an economically depressed region of Appalachia, is committed to promoting scientific outreach to underserved communities.



Christine Skaggs (Immediate Past Chair, Public Relations Committee Chair) graduated from Indiana University - Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) with her Ph.D. in analytical chemistry (2021) before accepting a position at Eli Lilly and Company. She joined ACS in 2015 serving as secretary for the Indiana local section from 2019-2021 before her term as chair elect and chair in 2022 and 2023 respectively. Christine held committee chair/co-chair positions for the Younger Chemist Committee (YCC), the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Respect (DEIR) committee, the industry relations committee, and the mentorship committee. Christine's initiatives center around supporting new members in their leadership roles.



**Denise Durham** (Chair Elect) holds eight advanced degrees including those in chemistry, education, business, law, and information systems. She has worked in the food and beverage Industry for over 25 years. In her role Denise, I hopes to reengage some ACS members who have not been active volunteers in the past 2-3 years.



Hannah Zimmerman-Federle (Secretary, Women's Chemists Committee Chair) is third year PhD student in Nick Manicke's group at IUPUI. Her research focuses on small molecule assay development and cross validations between liquid chromatography mass spectrometry and paper spray mass spectrometry. She joined the ACS Indiana Local section in 2020 primarily volunteering in K-12 outreach events. She discovered a passion for outreach, volunteering, and event planning and has now chaired events like the Park Tudor Women in STEM Outreach series and the Career Development Symposium. She has held positions on the executive board including Member-at-Large and Secretary. Hannah has also chaired the Membership Affairs and Younger Chemist's Committees for a few years. From events she has helped organize several new members have joined the local section and two graduate student ACS chapters have been created. Hannah is very passionate about mentoring young women in STEM and creating events that benefit the student population in her area.



Arvind Jaganathan (Treasurer) is a principal investigator at Corteva Agriscience. He completed his undergraduate education in India and received his B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees in chemistry from the University of Pune. He obtained his PhD degree from Michigan State University. His graduate research was focused on asymmetric catalysis and mechanistic studies. Since 2014, Arvind has held various technical and leadership roles at Corteva Agriscience. He is currently the Strategy & Initiatives Leader of the Small Molecule Discovery & Development (SMDD) group. He also leads a cross-functional team of scientists on developing crop protection solutions for the European Cereals market. Arvind is passionate about outreach and ID&E initiatives in STEM fields and has been an active member of the Indiana local section as both an elected member and as an organizing committee member over the last 5 years.



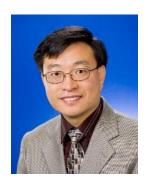
Brian Mathes (Councilor, Kids and Chemistry Committee Chair) received a B.S. from Ball State and an MS from UNC-Chapel Hill in synthetic organic chemistry. He joined Eli Lilly and Company in 1996 and moved to Elanco in 2019 with the current title of Senior Research Chemist in Early Research Formulation Technologies. Since joining the local section in 1996, Brian has served as chair, alternate councilor, and various committee chair roles before being elected to councilor in 2015. In addition to the councilor role Brian serves as the Kids and Chemistry Chair to support his passion for bringing chemical education to families. Brian serves on the ConC committee in the National ACS governance along with Corporation Associates.



Beth Lorsbach (Councilor) received her BA in chemistry in 1993 and a MS in Organometallic Chemistry in 1995 from Boston University. She continued her studies at the University of California, Davis, obtaining a Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry in 1999. During her more than 20 years with Dow AgroSciences (DAS) and Corteva Agriscience, Beth contributed to the success of Crop Protection R&D through her leadership in Discovery Chemistry, Process Chemistry groups, and Global Leader for Small Molecule Discovery and Development (SMDD). Recently, Beth joined Nufarm as the Global Development leader where she will continue deliver innovative and disruptive solutions to solve farmer's needs. Beth has served as chair and various committee chair roles before being elected to councilor in 2016. Beth has been a member of the Local Section Activities committee (LSAC) in the National ACS governance.



Erin Dotlitch (Councilor, Strategic Planning Committee Chair) works as Sr. Principal Scientist at Eli Lilly and Company in Bioproduct Research & Development. A member since 2001, and section leader in various roles since 2009, Erin currently serves as section Councilor. Additional service includes successfully nominating numerous Fellows, current Chair of the National Committee on Technician Affairs, serving on the 2011 CERM committee and 2013 and 2023 National Meeting planning committee. Erin recently secured the section's first National Chemical Historic Landmark for Insulin commercialization and development.



Tom Xiao (Councilor, Education Committee Chair) received a Ph.D. Degree in analytical chemistry from Iowa State University in 2004. After beginning his career with Pfizer, he joined Eli Lilly and Company in 2009 with a current position as Senior Advisor. Since joining the ACS in 2003, Tom has been a very active member serving as LS chair (2017), alternate councilor, and the Award Committee Chair before his role as councilor (2023-2025). Tom has continued to leverage his connections and influence at Lilly to mobilize Lilly's engagement and support of ACS, including the Lilly sponsorship and engagement of the Spring 2023 National ACS meeting. As an active STEM promoter, Tom has served the National ACS Analytical Reagents committee (CAR) for the last 4 years and recently appointed as the liaison between CAR and CCS (Chemical Safety Committee).



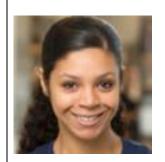
Partha Basu (Alternate Councilor) is a Professor and the Chair of the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology at IUPUI. He received his Ph.D. from Jadavpur University in India. He received Indian National Science Academy (INSA)'s Young Scientist award. He moved to the University of Arizona as a postdoctoral fellow. He started his independent career at Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, where he rose through the ranks and held the Henry Koren Endowed Chair in Scholarship position. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry, has published 125+ papers, and holds several patents. Partha has been a member of the ACS since 1994. He is an ardent supporter of Project SEED and mentored nearly 85 students of all backgrounds. He serves on the National Chemists with Disability (CWD) committee and chairs the Indiana section's Project SEED committee. He is a member of the Indianapolis Project SEED/STEM board. Partha was a former chair of the Indiana section and has provided leadership in hosting the Spring National Meeting in Indianapolis. Partha is committed to increasing the reach of chemistry and ACS through various activities.



Gregory Dale Smith (Alternate Councilor, Chemistry and Humanities Committee Chair) became the Otto N. Frenzel III Senior Conservation Scientist at the Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields where he constructed and now operates a state-of-the-art research facility to study and preserve the museum's encyclopedic collection. Gregory Dale Smith received a B.S. degree from Centre College of Kentucky in anthropology/sociology and chemistry before pursuing graduate studies at Duke University as an NSF graduate fellow in time-domain vibrational spectroscopy and archaeological fieldwork in Israel's Galilee region. Dr. Smith's research interests include undergraduate education at the Arts-Science interface, assessing pollution off-gassing of museum construction materials, and understanding the chemical degradation of artists' materials. In 2018, Dr. Smith was selected to receive the AIC's national award for conservation advocacy for his work in public lecturing and curating exhibitions that focus on the role of Science in the Arts.



**Mikayla Metzger** (Member at Large) is a fourth year graduate student in the chemistry department of IUPUI. She started serving as an ACS committee chair in 2021 as the elections chair. Since then, Mikayla has taken on a few additional roles as membership affairs chair, creative director, and member-at-large. She is looking forward to working with the local section this year!



Jade A. Bing (Member at Large) is a synthetic chemist at Corteva Agriscience where she explores the discovery and development of novel crop protection agents. Jade received her Ph.D. in organic chemistry from Vanderbilt University in 2020 (NSF Graduate Research Fellow) where she focused on asymmetric catalysis and natural product total synthesis. Jade is passionate about and dedicated to efforts to mitigate disparities in STEM. Since joining the ACS in 2012, she has served in multiple leadership positions including chair of the Committee on Minority Affairs (CMA), cochair of the Committee on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Respect (DEIR), and chair of the Younger Chemists Committee Professional Development sub-committee, as well as Member-at-large. She is the current Midwest Regional Chair for the National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers (NOBCChE).

Ann Kimble-Hill (Alternate Councilor) No bio available

Ron Benning (Member at Large, Committee on Technician Affairs Chair) No bio available

#### **Committee Chairs**



Abdallah Diagne (Nominations Committee Chair) obtained his B.A. in chemistry from Columbia University and his Ph.D. in Chemistry from Northwestern University in 2017, where he worked in the area of synthetic methodology and natural product total synthesis. He joined Corteva™ in February 2018 as a member of the Discovery Chemistry subfunction, working on the development of novel chewing insecticides. He now serves as the chemistry co-leader of an early-stage project. Abdallah served as Chair of the Indiana Local Section of the American Chemical Society in 2020 and 2021 and currently serves as the Nominations Committee Chair.



**Dr. Alexandra Tamerius** (Mentoring Committee Chair) works at Marian University in Indianapolis, where she Combines her expertise in chemical demonstration with her passion for teaching and learning, to develop of hands-on chemistry learning activities in the laboratory and in the classroom. She is the advisor for the newly formed Chem Club at Marian University and is a Co-Chair of the Mentorship Committee. She will also be stepping into the role of Co-Chair for the Engaging Student Chapters Committee this year.



**Eray Schulz** (Mentoring and Younger Chemist Committee Chairs) is a third year PhD Candidate at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis. He is a co-chair for the ACS Indiana Mentorship Program, as well as the new Indiana YCC chair. This year, Eray is looking forward to help forge meaningful relationships with potential mentors and provide networking opportunities for students.



**Kymeri Davis** (Environmental Committee Chair) is a first-generation chemistry graduate student at IUPUI. Since joining the ACS in 2020, Kymeri has held leadership positions as the Indiana local section Environmental Committee Chair and a Member-at-large. Kymeri is an active leader in her university's professional society, which she states "gives me a unique opportunity to contribute what younger chemists would like to see within the ACS."



**Linda Osborn** (Senior Chemists Committee Chair) recently retired as Director of Analytical Chemistry from Heritage Research Group. During her 30+ year tenure as a chemist, Linda was an integral part of the ACS IN local section and held various leadership positions. Of herself, Linda states that she is passionate about sustainability and investing in our youth.

Megan McLeod (Think Like a Molecule Committee Chair) No bio available

Muhammad Khalifia (Grants Committee Chair) No bio available

Robert Pribush (Education and Chemistry Olympiad Committee Chairs) No bio available

Ryan Jeske (Science Day at Ball State Committee Chair) No bio available

Allen Prusinowski (Minority Affairs Committee Chair) No bio available

Brendon Sargent (National Chemistry Week Committee Chair) No bio available

Erica Posthuma (K-12 Outreach Committee Chair) No bio available

Frédérique Deiss (Webmaster) No bio available

Erin Hancock (Industry Relations Committee Chair)

Jim Ringer (Mentoring Committee Chair) No bio available

#### **Open Committee Positions**

Newsletter Editor Public/Government Affairs

Professional Relations Career Assistance/Employment

Community Activities Continuing Education

Project SEED Environmental Health and Safety

Would you like to fill one of our open positions? Reach out to <a href="mailto:acsinlocal@gmail.com">acsinlocal@gmail.com</a> with interest!

### **UPCOMING EVENTS!**

The local section has several great events coming up, and we would like to extend our invitations to you. Check out the descriptions and flyers on the next few pages!

Once Upon a Green Classroom is an ongoing initiative to inspire sustainable practices for younger generations. We are always taking volunteers to go to schools and read stories to the kids. Feel free to email us at <a href="mailto:acsinlocal@gmail.com">acsinlocal@gmail.com</a> to get involved!

**PREDICT** is hosting a completely free virtual symposium to celebrate and promote underrepresented groups in STEM. This symposium will have technical talks as well as industry and student presentations. This event is Friday, February 23rd, so sign up soon by clicking <a href="https://example.com/here/">here</a>!

The Hoosier Science & Engineering Fair is looking for judges! This event will be held at IUPUI on April 6th and will be a fun opportunity to see projects from Indiana's young scientists and engineers. Check out the flyer or click <a href="here">here</a> to register.

The ACS local section is hosting their first **Exceptional Leaders Conference**! This event will be held at the IUPUI Campus Center from 8am-6pm. There will be a wide variety of talks ranging from professional development to technical talks. We will be providing breakfast and lunch refreshments. Click <u>here</u> to register!

#### List of upcoming events:

- Once Upon A Green Classroom, Rolling, See Linda Osborn for opportunities
- PREDICT Webinar: Virtual, 2/23/24
- HSEF: @ IUPUI on 4/6/24, judges needed
- Exceptional Leaders Conference: @IUPUI on 4/13/24
- Chemistry of Bourbon: @ West Fork Distillery Westfield on 5/1/24
- YCC Speed Mentoring: @MU, September, Mentors needed
- Celebrate Science Indiana 2024 on 10/12/24
- Illustrated Poem Contest Oct 2024
- Science Claus Dec 2024
- End of Year celebration December 2024







PRomoting Equity and Diversity In ChemisTry

2/23/24 | 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM EST

A free, virtual symposium to celebrate and promote the success of underrepresented groups in STEM

#### Featuring Technical Highlights



Jennifer M. Schomaker, PhD

Professor of Chemistry, University of Wisconsin, Madison



Sara E. Skrabalak, PhD

Professor of Chemistry, Indiana University



David A. Nagib, PhD

Professor of Chemistry, The Ohio State University

#### **Featured Presentations**

PREDICT Student Scholars

Industrial Talks from Lilly & Corteva

#### Join Us For...

A Panel Discussion: Self-Care, Advocacy & Mentorship

Networking Lunch

#### Register at No Cost!

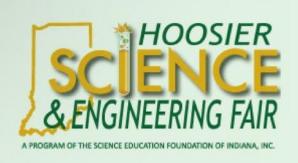
Use the Link: http://tinyurl.com/PREDICT2024REGISTRATION

Or Scan the QR Code:



Questions?

Contact Allen Prusinowski (Allen.Prusinowski@Corteva.com)







## Become a Judge

for the Hoosier Science & Engineering Fair

April 6, 2024

The 36th Annual Hoosier Science and Engineering Fair will be held on Saturday, April 6, 2024, on the campus of IUPUI.

If you can judge this year, please sign up using the link below.

https://indianasciencefairs.org/judging/

#### High School Division: (grades 9-12)

"Judges must have a B.A., B.S. or a master's degree with a minimum of three years related professional experience OR a Ph.D., M.D., or equivalent. Judges may include university faculty, corporate scientists and engineers, representatives of private, state, and federal research centers and agencies, and medical researchers including graduate students.

Junior/Elementary Division: (grades 4-8)

"Judges must at a minimum be enrolled in an accredited university or college or have a B.A., B.S. or a master's degree, OR a Ph.D., M.D., or equivalent. Judges may include high school science teachers, university faculty, corporate scientists and engineers, representatives of private, state, and federal research centers and agencies, and medical researchers.





# Exceptional

# Leaders

April 13th at IUPUI Campus Center from 8:00am to 6:00pm

Conference

Sponsored by MEDI, ANYL, PROF, AGRO, & IN Local Section

Join the Indiana Local Section for our first Exceptional Leaders Conference! Topics will cover a broad range of professional development workshops intermingled with technical talks covering the science prominent to the Indianapolis area. We will also have a networking session to create connections. Breakfast and

Lunch refreshments will be included.

Register by typing in the url or by scanning the QR code! http://tinyurl.com/3f3rcj52



# Once Upon a Green Classroom: Inspiring Sustainability through Elementary School Storytelling

#### Preparation

Contact an Elementary School or Elementary School Teacher of your choosing in Indiana
Arrange with a teacher the date and time of your visit
Determine the book that you will read based on the grade level
Determine the short experiment you will do in the classroom
Offer to allow video of the storytelling and experiment



#### **Elementary Outreach**

Arrive at the school 15-minutes in advance of the start time
Make sure someone takes photos
Have a videographer ready Read a short book about sustainability
Conduct a hands-on activity with the students related to sustainability (examples provided)
Donate the book to the school 1 to 2 hours

#### Post-Event

Send a 1-page report to me by the end of December This is to allow the inclusion of summary information for reporting to the National ACS We'll all get together at the end to share our stories and provide feedback



## Indiana Section provides leadership for the National ACS governance

By: Brian Mathes

The Indiana Section this year is proud to have 4 of its members be appointed to committee chairs for the National ACS governance. This might be a record for any one section to have this many members as leaders at the same time! In these chair positions they help lead and shape the direction of these committees towards the achievement of the goals of the committee and the ACS. These 4 show the impact of the Indiana Section on the ACS community at large. Being a chair Nationally definitely requires more time from these members, but it also helps the Indiana Section get recognized as well as helping get resources and events to our section.

- Erin Dotlich is currently serving as Chair of Chemical Technician Affairs
- Brian Mathes is serving as Chair of the Committee on Committees
- Beth Lorsbach is serving as the Chair of Local Section Affairs
- Parth Basu is serving as the Chair of Chemists with Disabilities

#### ACS INDIANA LOCAL SECTION STRATEGIC PLANNING

By: Erin Dotlich

On November 11th and 12th 2023, the Indiana section hosted strategic planning with facilitators William "Bill" Carroll and Carole Duane. The retreat was held in-person at Eli Lilly and Company headquarters. An LSAC grant helped fund the event. Our section had previously held a strategic planning retreat in 2014, thus, the section was long overdue to revisit the vision, mission and goals. A survey was sent prior to members to gather data on interests, restrictions, preferences, etc. Demographic data from the both the survey and e-roster was analyzed. Care was taken to ensure the societies DEIR values were upheld and a very diverse group represented the section at the retreat. We have updated both our vision and mission statement. The new vision statement is "Inspiring a Caring Community Through Chemistry" and the updated mission statement is now "Creating a Sustainable Legacy Through Professional and Scientific Development, Membership Engagement and Outreach". Provided the updated vision and mission of the section, there were 3 goals identified:

- 1) Membership Engagement. Increase and enhance membership engagement and involvement through creative programming
- 2) Professional and Scientific Development. Provide and promote resources for professional success and scientific excellence across career stages and goals.
- 3) Outreach. Design inclusive programming to educate, support and advocate for our community.

Project plans with goal strategies to help us achieve these goals have been put together. At a follow up section meeting, the strategic plan was presented. Individuals not present at the retreat were given the opportunity to serve with the goal strategy champions to expand the teams. The section is using it's monthly meetings to provide updates on progress and working meetings are occurring with the strategy teams outside of local section meetings. Strategic planning is particularly critical to the section at this time due to 1) a recent drop in membership resulting in the loss of one Councilor position and 2) post the spring national meeting hosted in Indianapolis, new members joining for the purpose of the meeting should be engaged for retention.

All members are invited and encouraged to participate on one of our goal strategy teams. Help us achieve our strategic plan by reaching out to Erin Dotlich at DotlichEM@Lilly.com to be connected to the correct goal strategy champion.

Core Values: Passion for chemistry; Focus on members; Professionalism, Safety & Ethics; DEIR



#### Vision

**Inspiring a Caring Community Through Chemistry** 



#### Mission

Creating a Sustainable Legacy Through Professional and Scientific Development, Membership Engagement and Outreach



#### **Goals & Strategies**

Goal 1: Membership Engagement. Increase and enhance membership engagement and involvement through creative programming

**G1S1:** Reorganization and PR. Improve information dissemination and create succession plan.

**G1S2: Premiere Programming. Prioritize** yearly events focused on networking & new/current member events.

**G1S3:** Reengagement of Student Chapters. Ensure three new academic institutions in Indiana section have an active student affiliate group associated with us providing resources to group by end of 2025.

**INACS 2024 Strategic Plan\*** 



#### Goals & Strategies



Goal 2: Professional and Scientific Development. Provide and promote resources for professional success and scientific excellence across career stages and goals.

**G2S1: Programming Events.** Host 2 theme -based networking events by end of 2024.

G2S2: Seminar/Lecture Series. Host one scientific enhancement event by Q4 2024.

**G2S3: Career Development.** By Q4 2025, pilot 10 Microvolunteering / Leadership development Opportunities.

Goal 3: Outreach. Design inclusive programming to educate, support and advocate for our community.

**G3S1: Strategies to prioritize resources.** By the end of Q1 2024, form a task force for community engagement that will prioritize and consolidate LS events down to 15.

G3S2: Outreach: Design inclusive programming to educate, support and advocate for our community: Redesign communication strategy to increase participation by schools and students in ongoing K-12 activities to increase under-represented minorities

G3S3:Specific events. Design a Chemistry of Art - Community Day event that serves the under -represented community and improves the public perception of science

**American Chemical Society** 

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Attendees of the strategic planning retreat: Tom Xiao, John Rohanna, Brian Mathes, Denis Durham, Jade Bing, Christine Skaggs, Partha Basu, Robert (Bob) Pribush, Frederique Diess, Abdallah Diagne and Erin Dotlich, with facilitators Bill Carroll and Carole Duane.

### A CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

As the proverb goes, "Many hands make light work", and that is very true for our ACS Indiana Local Section. If you are a member, but are not involved, we would love to have you join us on a committee or at an event! You can reach out directly to any one of the members listed in this issue, or if you don't know who to contact, email <a href="mailto:acsinlocal@gmail.com">acsinlocal@gmail.com</a> and we will get you connected to the right person!

# Current Accelerator Newsletter Team: Andrea Moberly Jordan Jewett

The Indiana Section of the ACS publishes the Accelerator at least three times a year. The Section is not responsible for statements or opinions printed in this publication. The Accelerator Team is responsible for all unsigned and staff articles.

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