



SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY

A Member of the Texas State University System

ALPINE, TEXAS 79832

Department of Biology, Geology & Physical Sciences
Box C-64

Phone (432) 837-8112
Fax (432) 837-8682

5th September 2017

Dear Sul Ross State University Teaching Council,

I would like to thank the SRSU Teaching Council for contributing funds that enabled me to attend the 254th American Chemical Society National Meeting and Exposition that was held in Washington D.C. at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center and nearby hotels on August 20-24th 2017. I was successful in obtaining a competitive oral presentation (Development and optimization of a selective MYST histone acetyltransferase inhibitor that induces cellular senescence) in the general oral session of the ACS Division of Medicinal Chemistry, which was presented on 20th August. SRSU was appropriately thanked for providing travel funds that enabled me to attend this conference. I attended a Research at Undergraduate Institutions session that emphasized clear communication for undergraduates performing research. On Monday 21st of August I participated in an official Guinness World Records™ attempt for the largest chemistry session. Dr. David Sedlak gave the lecture for this record breaking attempt which was focused on the quality of drinking water throughout America. Dr. Sedlak discussed five cities (El Paso was one of the five cities) across America and talked about the basic water problems and solutions that were implemented to make the water safe for consumption.

I attended numerous chemical education sessions that were informative on how to engage undergraduate students in research and experiential learning experiences. Assessment methods, rubrics, pedagogy, peer mentoring learning approaches, *etc.*, were covered in the Instruments for the ACS-Accredited Degree Program session (Thursday 24th August). How to generate less chemical waste, chemical efficiency and experiential learning (use of cell phone applications to determine total phenolic concentrations) topics were covered in the Green Chemistry: Theory and Practice session (Wednesday 23rd August). I attended the Innovations in Undergraduate Biochemistry Education session on Tuesday 22nd August which covered how to better prepare students needing to take the MCAT and how to help students better understand biochemistry. This session confirmed that the SRSU Biochemistry courses that I teach are up to standard. On Wednesday afternoon (23rd August) I attended the Games & Active learning Techniques to Help Students Understand Chemistry, which provided non-

traditional tools that could be implemented in freshman chemistry classes to help students better understand chemistry and have fun at the same time. I enjoyed the application of Jeopardy and Legos as tools to help students better understand complex intricacies of chemistry. On Monday 21st August I visited numerous companies in the Exhibition area and I came across useful products (such as *Gaussian*, chemicals, equipment, etc.) that upon acquisition at SRSU would transform various chemistry classes. I also interacted with various companies/organizations that give undergraduate students experiential learning opportunities in placements such as the US Naval Research Laboratory. On Tuesday 22nd August, I benefited from a 15 minute one-to-one speed coaching session with a National Science Foundation (NSF) chemistry representative that helped me in regards to general advice pertaining to successful grant writing. I attended a highly publicized product release from IKA for the Electro Syn 2.0 (~\$2,000), which can be used for applied electrochemistry laboratory experiments and I would recommend SRSU to purchase this instrument for the chemistry program. Numerous chemistry Nobel laureates attended this conference and they disseminated basic research breakthroughs in a simple manner, highlighting how to present complex information which students can easily understand. I attended an interesting session on Tuesday 22nd August (Journey to Mars) about the science currently limiting the establishment of a human colony on Mars and the current research being undertaken that one day might make this a reality.

I attended numerous sessions throughout the five days of the conference that provided me with a wealth of valuable information that will be used to enhance the chemistry classes I teach. By attending the 254th American Chemical Society National Meeting and Exposition, I have been equipped with tools, techniques and ideas that will make me more effective as an Assistant Professor of Chemistry in the classroom and the laboratory at Sul Ross State University.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "D. J. Leaver". The ink is a light grey or blue color.

Dr. David J. Leaver
Assistant Professor of Chemistry
Department of Biology, Geology and Physical Sciences, Box C-64
Sul Ross State University
Alpine, TX 79832
Phone: (432) 837-8115