

Exchange Program of the Northeast Section of the ACS (NESACS) and the Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker (GDCh)

NERM 2015 Awardees of the Marinda Wu Partners for Progress and Prosperity (P3) Award



The Marinda Wu Partners for Progress and Prosperity (P3) Award was established to encourage and recognize successful and exemplary partnerships, which has resulted in impactful outcomes in:

- Improving the public perception and appreciation for chemistry
- Promoting career advancement opportunities and/or supporting entrepreneurship in chemistry
- Advancing advocacy efforts with government and other thought leaders
- Supporting STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education and research

For the past 15 years the NESACS-GDCh Exchange Program has sent (or hosted) 12 younger chemists and delegates from Germany to the United States and vice versa. The exchange always includes:

- Active participation in a scientific conference via oral or poster presentations
- Getting linked to local universities and research institutes
- Visits to companies in all fields of STEM
- Insights into local cultural and historical highlights, and host organizations

This program embraces the idea that chemistry is global, and fosters the sharing of research, networking, and exposure to career opportunities across borders. It is noteworthy that undergraduates as well as graduate students are among the active participants.

To illustrate, in 2013 German students visited Boston, gave technical presentations at NERM, toured A123 Systems (an innovative energy storage company) and biotechnology companies, as well as MIT and Harvard chemistry departments. In 2014, American students visited Jena, and toured the Max Planck Institute for Chemical Ecology, Carl Zeiss (optics/imaging), as well as trips to Weimar and the Buchenwald Memorial.

The success of this model has been confirmed by the adoption of a similar program between the ACS Younger Chemists Committee (YCC) and the European Younger Chemists Network (EYCN).