

NEWS RELEASE

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Scientific contributions of persons with disabilities featured at Purdue University program

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — The president of the American Chemical Society, Joseph Francisco, will be the keynote speaker at a public event on Monday (March 1) that highlights scientific contributions of persons with disabilities and provides information for people who teach and work in the field of science.

Francisco, who also is the William E. Moore Distinguished Professor of Physical Chemistry at Purdue University, will talk about the many contributions the members of the Chemists with Disabilities have made to the chemical sciences.

Cary Supalo, president of Independence Science LLC, a Purdue Research Park-based educational consulting company, and chair of Alpha Chi Sigma's Special Needs Committee, also will speak at the event.

The program will take place from 6 to 7 p.m. the Wetherill Laboratory of Chemistry, Room 201. Refreshments will be provided.

Two books from the American Chemical Society, "Teaching Chemistry to Students with Disabilities" and "Working Chemists with Disabilities" will be offered free to the public, including students, educators and other interested attendees at the event.

"People with disabilities have traditionally been underrepresented in the sciences, both in classrooms and careers. This event is designed to raise awareness that persons with disabilities have made many dynamic contributions to the scientific community," said Supalo, who is a contributor to the 4th edition of "Teaching Chemistry to Students with Disabilities" and a member of the American Chemical Society's Chemists with Disabilities Committee.

"They overcome many challenges every day as a result of their physical limitations, and so become master problem solvers. Highlighting these problem-solving strengths is the focus of this reception. Such valuable skills can be utilized to pursue careers in the sciences, because science is all about solving problems."

The event is co-sponsored by the American Chemical Society's Chemists with Disabilities Committee, the Beta Nu Chapter of professional chemistry fraternity Alpha Chi Sigma and Independence Science.

About Independence Science, LLC

Independence Science, LLC, makes science more accessible to students with blindness or low vision (BLV) through providing consulting services and sales of assistive technologies for use in science laboratory classrooms. The company's goal is to empower students with BLV to fully participate in science learning. Independence Science serves clients across the United States, including school districts, colleges and universities, state rehabilitation agencies, parents of students with BLV, and the students themselves. The company is located in the Purdue Research Park in West Lafayette.

About Purdue Research Park of West Lafayette

The 725-acre Purdue Research Park has the largest university-affiliated business incubation complex in the country. The park is home to more than 160 companies. About 100 of these firms are technology-related and another 39 are incubator businesses. The park is owned and managed by the Purdue Research Foundation, a private, nonprofit organization created to assist Purdue University in the area of economic development. In addition to the Purdue Research Park in West Lafayette, the foundation has established technology parks in other locations around Indiana including Indianapolis, Merrillville, and New Albany.

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Web Sites:

Independence Science LLC, <http://www.independencescience.com>

Purdue Research Park, <http://www.purdueresearchpark.com>

American Chemical Society, <http://www.acs.org>

Alpha Chi Sigma, <http://www.alphachisigma.org>