

To Whom It May Concern:

One of the positions I held during my more than 30 year tenure at the American Chemical Society, was that of director of diversity programs. At the time the newly appointed Committee of Minority Affairs (CMA) was in its infancy and enthusiasm for its success was at its peak especially among the committee's members and associates. They all shared a common goal of increasing the number of underrepresented minorities in the chemical sciences, developing a strong pipeline of future scientists, and building collaborations with other scientific minority serving organizations of similar goals. Dr. Willie May was one of those enthusiastic members, and it wasn't long before he advanced to the Committee's chair.

Very early on Dr. May put the committee to work. He urged CMA members to mentor the ACS Scholars, seek opportunities to strengthen the pipeline of minority students interested in pursuing chemistry, encourage ACS minority members to participate in the Society at all levels, and promote recognition of the accomplishments of minority chemical science professionals. Under Dr. May's leadership the ACS Scholars Program began receiving national recognition, minority members integrated into positions of Society governance and accomplishments by minority scientists were now being recognized in the ACS at all three levels - locally, regionally and nationally.

All while I worked with Dr. May on these various initiatives, I often thought that his leadership skills, ability to build consensus, and strategic outlook, were assets that could serve the Society well at a higher level. I am proud and pleased that Dr. May is running for ACS President- Elect. He is a clear thinker, a man of action, an internationally known scientist and a person of integrity. For these and many other reasons, I plan to vote for Dr. Willie May for ACS President-Elect. Once you visit Dr. May's website and review his credentials and diverse support – both nationally and internationally - you will likely do the same.

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