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Dear Members of the American Chemical Society:

I enthusiastically support Willie E. May for the position of President-Elect of the American Chemical Society. He is an able and visible spokesperson for the chemical sciences and will provide added value to our profession. I have known Willie for more than 25 years from various committees and, even more so, from my ten years as department chair at the University of Maryland. During the time that I was at Maryland he was rising from Division Head to Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the U.S. Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology; and while his position was advancing, he was spending even more time encouraging and promoting others. Willie E. May “makes positive things happen”!

Both a leader and mentor, Willie May was crucial to the development of the American Chemical Society Scholars Program. In addition, he has been instrumental to NOBBChE, which honored him with the Percy Julian Award for outstanding research in organic analytical chemistry and the Henry Hill Award for exemplary work and leadership in the field of chemistry. Recognizing his record Dr. May was elected a Fellow of the American Chemical Society in 2011. Perhaps less remembered is his integral role in the establishment of the ACS Committee on Minority Affairs, for which he was a founding member and the second Chairperson (1996-1998).

Willie May’s story is one of perseverance and determination. After receiving a bachelor’s degree in 1967, Willie briefly worked for the Oak Ridge Gaseous Diffusion Plant before accepting an internship at the then, National Bureau of Standards in Maryland. While working in the analytical division, he earned his Ph.D. in analytical chemistry from the University of Maryland, from which he received the Alumnus of the Year Award from the College of Chemical and Life Sciences in 2007. At the University of Maryland, Willie May was instrumental in the development of its nationally recognized effort in increasing diversity for graduate admission and success in the chemical sciences (“Blueprint for Boosting Diversity”, *C&EN*, Vol. 89, issue 51, December 19, 2011, pg. 41-42).

Willie knows the chemical sciences like no one else who I know. His career has involved him in setting standards, and no one can better explain how Avogadro’s number is established or its importance for commerce, how our economy depends on the science and engineering, and why knowledge of science is critical in making informed decisions.

Yours truly,



Michael P. Doyle