

PRESS Release



March 6, 2016

Toledo Local Section (since 1917) of the American Chemical Society

For immediate release

Contacts: Joanna Hinton, Chair 2016 Toledo Section, 419-346-8876

Chemistry Author Links Black History and Women's History Months

The author of the book **African American Women Chemists**, Ms Jeannette Brown, of Princeton, New Jersey, culminated her day and half visit in Toledo with an OPEN BOOK Author Event at The McMaster Auditorium of the Toledo-Lucas County Main Public Library on March 3. Ms. Brown, a retired chemist from the pharmaceutical research industry, respected and awarded advocate for diversity and inclusion in the chemical sciences, and Fellow of both the American Chemical Society (ACS) and Association of Women in Science (AWIS), shared inspiring snap shot oral histories of African American women chemists from as far back as the late 1800's to present day. Her visit was co-sponsored by the Toledo Section ACS, the Northwest Ohio Chapter of AWIS, and The Toledo-Lucas County Public Library System and was intentionally scheduled as a celebratory link between National Black History Month (Feb) and National Women's History Month (March).

Ms. Brown was also the special guest for a diversity initiative "*Meet & Greet: Women Scientists Bridging Generations*" the prior evening, March 2, held in the Student Union of the University of Toledo. This event was organized by the Toledo ACS in partnership with Ms Alicia Smith, Director of the City of Toledo Youth Commission, AWIS NWO, the University of Toledo, and the City of Toledo with the purpose to bring young women of Toledo together and to foster diversity and inclusion in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) fields. Numerous professional women with diverse STEM backgrounds and ethnicities shared their personal stories and offered sage advice to the many young ladies present from middle and high schools in Toledo as well as the University of Toledo. An anonymous student wrote on her evaluation "I have tremendous respect for the women that paved the way for me to be in the field of science as a woman (of color)." Other comments included "It's okay to be a woman in STEM" and "never give up no matter the situation."

Toledo Section, American Chemical Society at <http://toledosection.sites.acs.org/>
toledosectionacs@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Toledo-Section-American-Chemical-Society/128610157192543>
The American Chemical Society at <http://www.acs.org/content/acs/en.html>

Attendance at OPEN BOOK was ample for an evening of wintery snow & ice mix. The Honorable Mayor of the City of Toledo, Paula Hicks-Hudson, was in attendance, as were students, University of Toledo faculty, BGSU faculty, ACS & AWIS members, Lourdes University faculty and the public. Ms. Brown stayed til library closing autographing copies of her book. This was the 3rd OPEN BOOK event from the ACS award-winning partnership of Toledo ACS and TLCPL with the goal of engaging the Toledo community to the importance of science literacy and understanding the importance of chemistry in history and to everyday life.

The Toledo Section is one of 185 local sections of the American Chemical Society. Members of the Toledo Section sponsor various awards and community outreach events throughout the year to demonstrate the importance of chemistry in history and to everyday life.

The American Chemical Society serves more than 158,000 members globally, providing educational and career development programs, products, and services. As the largest scientific society in the world, we are a leading and authoritative source of scientific information.

Toledo Section, American Chemical Society at <http://toledosection.sites.acs.org/>
toledosectionacs@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Toledo-Section-American-Chemical-Society/128610157192543>
The American Chemical Society at <http://www.acs.org/content/acs/en.html>



March 3, 2016, OPEN BOOK Co-Sponsors with **African American Women Chemists'** Author Ms. Jeannette Brown: Edith Kippenhan, President AWS NWO, Joanna Hinton, Chair Toledo Section ACS, and Ben Malczewski, Humanities Department Manager / Coordinator Authors! Authors! photo courtesy of Joanna Hinton

Toledo Section, American Chemical Society at <http://toledosection.sites.acs.org/>
toledosectionacs@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Toledo-Section-American-Chemical-Society/128610157192543>
The American Chemical Society at <http://www.acs.org/content/acs/en.html>



Big group photo of many of the attendees - notice all the smiles! Including City of Toledo Council Woman Cecelia Adams (far right), Project RIDGE Director Alicia Hernandez (2nd from right), and hiding behind special Guest Jeannette Brown, Dr. Karen Bjorkman, Dean of the College of Natural Sciences & Mathematics at the University of Toledo; March 2, 2016; photo courtesy of Joanna Hinton

Toledo Section, American Chemical Society at <http://toledosection.sites.acs.org/>
toledosectionacs@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Toledo-Section-American-Chemical-Society/128610157192543>
The American Chemical Society at <http://www.acs.org/content/acs/en.html>



Dr. Tony Quinn, Assistant Dean for Diversity and Inclusion, College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, University of Toledo, Welcoming all attendees to the event, March 2, 2016; photo by Joanna Hinton

Toledo Section, American Chemical Society at <http://toledosection.sites.acs.org/>
toledosectionacs@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Toledo-Section-American-Chemical-Society/128610157192543>
The American Chemical Society at <http://www.acs.org/content/acs/en.html>