

UNC Professor Emeritus Wins Prestigious George C. Pimentel Award in Chemical Education from the American Chemical Society

The American Chemical Society, the world's largest single-discipline scientific organization, recently announced that Dr. Henry W. Heikkinen, Professor Emeritus, School of Chemistry & Biochemistry, and former Director of the Mathematics & Science Teaching (MAST) Institute, University of Northern Colorado (UNC), will be the recipient of the 2009 George C. Pimentel Award in Chemical Education.

This prestigious national award recognizes Dr. Heikkinen's numerous contributions to chemical education. To be considered for the award, nominees must have made outstanding contributions to chemical education—in the fields of teaching influential writing, educational research, methodology of instruction, establishing standards of instruction, and integrating of chemistry into the educational system. The award will be presented at the meeting of the American Chemical Society, March 2009, in Salt Lake City.

Among his contributions to the chemistry education field, Dr. Heikkinen was recognized for his leadership in the National Science Foundation (NSF) funded curriculum project, *Chemistry in the Community (ChemCom)*, sponsored by the American Chemical Society. This innovative course was designed to enhance student interest in high school chemistry through use of real-world examples and chemistry-related societal challenges. Dr. Heikkinen served as Chief Editor of *ChemCom*, which has reached over two million students and teachers to date over its five editions. Another valued contribution by Dr. Heikkinen was his work in the NSF-funded *ChemSource* project, which produced a comprehensive, widely used resource for pre-service and in-service high school teachers. He helped design and edit the modules for this useful compilation. He also served as the initial chair of a National Research Council committee that drafted K-12 science learning goals for the *National Science Education Standards*, which has served as a guide for comparable statewide efforts.

Beyond his national contributions, Dr. Heikkinen was recognized for his local work in helping develop the University of Northern Colorado's prominent Ph.D. program in chemistry education and for co-chairing the development of Colorado's model science content standards. Internationally, he has been invited as a speaker and consultant by over a dozen European and Asian nations and has helped advance chemistry teaching and learning worldwide.