

## Good Chemistry Between Schools And Businesses

(NAPSA)—Many communities are learning there's an educational resource they have been overlooking—a local chemical plant.

There are a number of ways chemical companies and their employees can support education in their communities. Here are a few examples:

- **Volunteer Tutoring and Mentoring:** Often, employees and retirees volunteer their time to work with students, some of whom have been identified as “at risk.” Students are tutored in such areas as math, English and science, and are encouraged to keep their grades up to improve their career prospects.

- **Classroom Guest Speakers:** A large number of chemical plant retirees, as well as employees, take part in this kind of effort. Speakers talk to the students, not just about the chemical industry, but about developing necessary life skills. Topics can range from time management to job-interviewing skills to help prepare the students for life beyond the classroom.

- **Judging of School Competitions:** Some chemical facilities provide judges for the science fairs at the local high school. But the involvement is not just strictly science-related. In fact, plants have provided judges for competitions sponsored by a range of school organizations, including the Future Farmers of America and essay contests.

- **Partnerships with Individual Schools:** In some communities, plants and nearby schools are



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matched up in partnerships that may last over a number of years. That closer, “official” relationship allows the plant volunteers to identify needs more quickly and respond more quickly, too.

“Promoting education is a primary focus for us in all the communities where we have facilities,” says Scott Roberts, executive vice president of operational excellence for Shell Chemical LP. “We want to be good neighbors, especially to the local schools.”

“We’re committed to our local communities,” Roberts says. “In addition to the satisfaction we get out of supporting schools, we’re also making an investment in our future workforce. It’s a good deal all the way around.”

For information about Shell Chemical LP plant programs, send an e-mail to [josie.derooy@shell.com](mailto:josie.derooy@shell.com) or visit the company’s Web site at [www.shell.com](http://www.shell.com).