

## 2006 Vanguard Award

On April 24, Washington, DC, provided the back drop for the 2006 presentation of the Chemical Educational Foundation's (CEF's) prestigious Vanguard Award. The Award, presented to Dr. Stephanie Burns, Chairman, President and CEO of Dow Corning Corporation of Midland, MI, honors individuals in the chemical industry whose leadership, commitment, and outreach efforts have helped advance the Foundation's mission of fostering a greater understanding of chemistry, the benefits of chemicals, and the importance of chemical safety awareness.



The Award was presented to Burns by the Honorable Raymond Simon, Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education. Confirmed by the U.S. Senate to the position in May 2005, Deputy Secretary Simon plays a pivotal role, overseeing and managing the development of policies, recommendations and initiatives that help define a broad, coherent vision for achieving the President's educational priorities. In his remarks, the Deputy Secretary mentioned several Presidential initiatives that aim to provide more funding for the math and sciences. One such example is the American Competitiveness Initiative (ACI) of which millions of dollars will be devoted to strengthening teacher training and creating innovative strategies to stimulate students to the importance of science.

In her acceptance speech, Burns acknowledged the value in Deputy Secretary Simon attending the Award presentation and noted the importance of the chemical industry and government working together to ensure that greater attention is paid to science education. She stated that the ACI and the chemistry outreach activities that industry members participate in nationwide are pivotal to ensuring the advancement of chemistry, encouraging students interest in chemistry and the chemical industry, and securing the place of future generations in the competitive world market.



The event was held at the historic Cosmos Club. Since its founding in 1878, the Cosmos Club has adhered to its stated corporate objectives: "The advancement of its members in science, literature, and art," and also "their mutual improvement by social intercourse."

With 70 people in attendance, the event also proved to be an excellent opportunity for members of the chemical industry to interact with one another. Attendees included representatives from the chemical distribution and manufacturing industries as well as affiliated organizations.

(See page 2 for a brief biography of Stephanie Burns.)

## 2006 Vanguard Award Winner – Stephanie Burns

Dr. Stephanie Burns, Chairman, President, and CEO of Dow Corning Corporation of Midland, Michigan will receive the Chemical Educational Foundation's (CEF) prestigious Vanguard Award at a dinner in Washington, DC.



For over a decade, CEF has presented the Vanguard Award to an individual in the chemical industry whose leadership, commitment, and outreach efforts have helped advance the Foundation's mission of fostering a greater understanding of chemistry, the benefits of chemicals, and the importance of chemical safety awareness.

Under Burns's leadership, Dow Corning has actively promoted teacher training in chemistry, sponsored chemistry-related scholarships, and created SciFest – an event held one day each year during National Chemistry Week that brings students, family members, and educators together to participate in hands-on science activities.

Dow Corning has also collaborated with two community colleges to develop chemical process training courses and worked with two vocational high school and two universities to train students on equipment that they would use in chemical industry professions.

Burns oversees Dow Corning's Teacher Innovation Awards program, which encourages educators in the Midland area to submit grant applications to fund their innovative math and science-related teaching projects. In its third year, the program has awarded more than fifty elementary, middle, and high school educators with \$1,000 grants.

Beginning her Dow Corning career as a researcher in 1983, Burns subsequently became the product development manager for the Electronics Industry, and in 1994, she became the director of Women's Health. In 1997, she began her first assignment outside the U.S. in Brussels and later became industry director for Life Sciences Europe, and then European Electronics Industry director. In February 2003, she was named Dow Corning's President and Chief Operating Officer, and in January 2004, she was named Chief Executive Officer.

Burns hold a Ph.D. in organic chemistry, with an organosilicon specialty, from Iowa State University and has completed post-doctoral studies at the University of Languedoc-Rousillon in France. She is a member of the American Chemical Society and the *Chemical and Engineering News* Advisory Board. She is also a Board member of the American Chemistry Council. In November 2003, Burns was also named Michigan Woman Executive of the Year, an award sponsored by several Michigan companies.