

Community Champion Award named after Dr. Larry Sernyk

Honor received at 2023 National You Be The Chemist Challenge® in Houston, Texas

ARLINGTON, VA – CEF announced today that their Community Champion Award, Sponsored by Dow, will be renamed the Larry Sernyk Community Champion Award, for his continued leadership and dedication to CEF and for inspiring a passion for science and STEM among students and communities.

The honor was presented to Dr. Sernyk at the 2023 National *You Be The Chemist* Challenge® Awards Dinner by Bryan Page, Director Commercial Support Services – Key Accounts for Brenntag North America Key Accounts Team, a long-time fellow volunteer and friend. When presenting the award, Mr. Page said, "There is one volunteer, in particular, I have worked with who stands out amongst all of us, in what he has done and what he continues to contribute to our program, and to the community he serves."



According to CEF Executive Director Dwayne Sattler, "Dr. Sernyk's exceptional leadership and dedication have left an indelible impact on our organization and the communities we serve. His passion for science and STEM education is truly inspiring, and his tireless efforts to engage students and educators have paved the way for a brighter future. We are grateful for his dedication and congratulate him on this well-deserved recognition."

Dr. Sernyk has a long history of volunteerism, organizing the Dow Agro Science Ambassador program, which later became the Dow STEM Ambassador program, a global best-in-class employee volunteer program that, at its peak, had more than 2,500 Ambassadors worldwide in 20+ countries.

He connected with CEF in 2010, traveling around the continental United States and Alaska to lead instructional workshops for teachers and to organize Regional Challenge events. Dr. Sernyk also acts as a mentor to new instructors and organizers, even spending a night troubleshooting with organizers in China.

Dr. Sernyk is also responsible for getting more than 50,000 Activity Guides into the hands of educators and volunteers in local communities in Indiana alone. He has previously been honored with a Community Champion award in 2018, along with other well-respected volunteers.

CEF is a nonprofit dedicated to building the future STEM workforce by inspiring students, engaging educators, and strengthening communities. See chemed.org for more information.