

# College of Chemistry

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

College of Chemistry

Department of Chemistry

Dept of Chemical &amp; Biomolecular Engineering

ADVANCING SOCIETY THROUGH EDUCATION &amp; RESEARCH

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## Chemistry Achievement Prize (CAP)

### Karen Wong

*Operations Manager, Yaghi Research Group (October 2014)*

Karen Wong, operations manager in the research group of chemistry professor Omar Yaghi, is the newest recipient of the Chemistry Achievement Prize. A long time College of Chemistry staff member, Karen's exemplary role in establishing the Yaghi lab at Berkeley was what spurred Professor Yaghi to make the nomination.

Professor Yaghi wrote "When I moved down from the Molecular Foundry a year and a half ago, my research accounts were still in transition from UCLA, my students were also mixed between those who joined at Berkeley and those who are still at UCLA, my laboratory space was tight and required careful planning to make everything fit, and on top of all this, the number of lab researchers was growing rapidly. Karen went to work on all these important issues and within a short period of time (approximately three months) she was able to transfer the accounts to Berkeley, establish the new students and postdoctoral fellows at Berkeley, and help organize our lab space to accommodate the new lab members while at the same time configure the space for all the equipment. She managed to do all this without having us stop our research work, and more importantly without any researchers missing a day of work or a day of pay."

Yaghi added that Karen provided invaluable help in bringing about the establishment of the California Research Alliance – CARA by BASF – to the College, an initiative that Yaghi co-directs with Professor Peidong Yang.

Karen says she enjoys working with the Yaghi group because "Professor Yaghi is so inclusive. He brings in external experts to visit his research group, runs a global mentoring program and shares knowledge and discoveries with other researchers."

In her spare time, Karen enjoys gardening and aspires to grow a garden that will sustain the vegetable, fruit and herb needs for her family.



## About The Chemistry Achievement Prize (CAP)

The Chemistry Achievement Prize (CAP) is a peer-oriented program designed to recognize outstanding and noteworthy service of staff members in the College of Chemistry. The intent is to recognize individuals who have made exceptional contributions that are above and beyond the normal expectations of their role and who are living the [Berkeley Operating Principles](#) in their everyday work.

### Program Information

All staff members (full and part-time) are eligible for nomination. A committee comprised of employees from various CoC units will serve a one-year term to review award nominations and select one award recipient per quarter.

## How to Nominate

To nominate, send an email to [capaward@berkeley.edu](mailto:capaward@berkeley.edu) and include the name and unit of the nominee, and a brief description of the specific reason for the nomination.

## Recognition

Award recipients will receive a \$75 value gift card, be recognized on the College's CAP website, and presented with a certificate of recognition which is displayed in the Dean's Office.

## Previous CAP Recipients

Below are previous recipients of the Chemistry Achievement Prize. [Click here to read more about the past winners.](#)

Date	Recipient
July 2014	<a href="#">Roy Washington</a> Storekeeper/College of Chemistry
April 2014	<a href="#">Jason Huynh</a> HR Assistant/Receptionist, College of Chemistry
January 2014	<a href="#">Jessica Chapman</a> Faculty Support Administrator, Department of Chemical & Biomolecular Engineerings
October 2013	<a href="#">Angelique Tolliver</a> Accounts Payable Coordinator, Business Administration & Financial Services
July 2013	<a href="#">Kim Strasburg</a> Administrative Officer, Iglesia group

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