

American Chemical Society  
Central Pennsylvania Local Section  
Chair-Elect Candidate Bio for Dr. Joseph Houck

I am a Central PA native; raised on a dairy farm in Seven Stars. I attended Juniata College and earned a Bachelor of Science degree (2008) in Chemistry with a secondary emphasis in Education. After completing my PhD (2013) in organic/medicinal chemistry at the University of Virginia, I taught for three years as a Lecturer at the University of Maryland, College Park. I taught general and organic chemistry lectures and labs and received awards for my teaching. I moved “home” this past summer to take a Lecturer position in the Department of Chemistry at Penn State.

While in the DC area, I served for two years on the Board of Managers in the Chemical Society of Washington local section and was a three-year Executive Board Member of the Younger Chemists Committee. In 2014, I was awarded an ACS Leadership Development Award to attend the ACS Leadership Institute with other young chemists. Aside from teaching, science outreach is a passion of mine, and I plan to work with local teachers and community organizations to bring science to larger audiences. As Chair-Elect of the Central PA Local Section, I hope that I can use my experience to bring new ideas for public outreach and increase the involvement of members.