

The CaSTL Center (Chemistry at the Space Time Limit) hosted a booth along with members of the Alpha Chi Sigma UCI Colony and the American Chemical Society (ACS) Student Affiliates (UCI Chemistry Club) at the 29th Annual Chem Expo at San Diego Miramar College. To complement this year's theme "Forensics- Solving Mysteries with Chemistry: Focusing on the chemistry of fibers and forensics", we conducted hands-on activities that looked at how microscopes can be used to identify physical properties of various chemicals for over 500 middle and high school students. In addition, students had the opportunity to play our Bond Breaker (<http://www.castl.uci.edu/games/bondbreaker>) puzzle game to learn more about protons and electrons, the formation and breaking of molecular bonds, light absorption, and lasers.

The Chem Expo is a collaboration between the Miramar College Chemistry Faculty and the San Diego Section of the ACS to celebrate National Chemistry Week. The major goal of the Expo is to increase greater public awareness of the importance of chemistry in our everyday lives and the roles that chemists play in the community. This year there were over 1000 students and boy and girl scouts in attendance.

CaSTL Center is a National Science Foundation Center for Chemical Innovation (NSF-CCI) with the mission to develop the essential science and technology to probe single chemical events in real space and time to address grand challenges in chemistry. Partner NSF-CCI Center for Aerosol Impacts on Climate and the Environment (CAICE) was also in attendance. CAICE focuses on improving the understanding of fundamental chemistry behind how aerosol particles impact the environment, air quality, and climate.



UCI Alpha Chi Sigma and Chemistry Club members assist students with hands-on activities.



Students are challenged to “break” the levels in the Bond Breaker game.



UC Irvine students from Alpha Chi Sigma and the ACS-Chemistry Club with the CCI-CaSTL Director of Education and Outreach.



NSF-CCIs meet at ACS Chem Expo to inspire the next generation of chemists.
Pictured left to right: Danielle Watt, CCI-CaSTL Director of Education and Outreach and Becky Hames, CCI-CAICE Director of Education and Outreach