UNIVERSITY OF USI SOUTHERN INDIANA

NEWS RELEASE

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USI Chemistry Department celebrates Mole Day

The USI Chemistry Department and the USI American Chemical Society Student Affiliates will host the third annual Mole Day Celebration at USI beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, October 23.

Students from area high schools will compete in a chemistry bowl at 9 a.m. followed by chemical demonstrations at 10:30 a.m. All events take place in Carter Hall in the University Center. During the chemistry bowl, teams of students will compete for honors by correctly answering a number of chemistry-related questions. It will be similar to an academic bowl. Dr. Marie Hankins, chair of the USI Chemistry Department, will be leading the event. She would be available for an interview about the purpose of Mole Day and why learning about chemistry is important in everyday life.

Here is more information about Mole Day. Celebrated annually on October 23 from 6:02 a.m. to 6:02 p.m., *Mole Day* commemorates Avogadro's Number (6.02 x 10^23), which is a basic measuring unit in chemistry. *Mole Day* was created as a way to foster interest in chemistry. Schools throughout the United States and around the world celebrate *Mole Day* with various activities related to chemistry and/or moles.

For a given molecule, one mole is a mass (in grams) whose number is equal to the atomic mass of the molecule. For example, the water molecule has an atomic mass of 18, therefore one mole of water weighs 18 grams. An atom of neon has an atomic mass of 20, therefore one mole of neon weighs 20 grams. In general, one mole of any substance contains Avogadro's Number of molecules or atoms of that substance. This relationship was first discovered by Amedeo Avogadro (1776-1858) and he received credit for this after his death.