



NEWS RELEASE

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**For immediate release
Photo and video opportunities**

High school students will join USI faculty and students to celebrate Mole Day

To encourage an interest in careers in chemistry and to celebrate Mole Day, the University of Southern Indiana Department of Chemistry and the Indiana-Kentucky Border Section of the American Chemical Society will hold a Mole Day Chemistry Celebration featuring a chemistry competition for high school students at the USI campus on Monday, October 23.

Area high school chemistry teachers will send a team of three students. The students for the team must have completed the first year of chemistry. The participating schools include Reitz Memorial High School, Tecumseh High School, Boonville High School, Wood Memorial High School, Lanesville Junior/Senior High School, Castle High School, and Evansville North High School.

In addition to this competition, other activities will include a tour of the facilities in the Department of Chemistry, a program on the various careers that are possible with a chemistry degree, and a chemical demonstration show followed by the award ceremony. The students also will have an opportunity to mingle with undergraduate chemistry majors at the University and ask questions about the chemistry program. A schedule follows.

8:30 a.m. – 9 a.m.	Registration, University Center Lobby, second floor
9 a.m. – 10 a.m.	Chemistry Bowl, UC 203 - 204
10 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Tour of facilities, UC 203 - 204
10:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.	Careers in Chemistry, UC 203 – 204
11 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	Lunch
12:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Chemical demonstrations and award presentation, Mitchell Auditorium

The mole is a unit of numbers. This unit is 6.02 times 10 to the 23rd. Chemists use the mole to describe a number of atoms, molecules, ions, or electrons in counting terms. The reason they use the annotated method to describe this number is because the number is so huge they would spend too much time trying to count each individual atomic unit. Chemists use the mole like individuals use dozen to describe 12, a pair to count 2, or a ton to weigh 2,000 lbs.

The concept of the mole was discovered by Amadeo Avogadro, an Italian scientist noted as one of the founders of physical chemistry. He received no recognition for his discovery during his lifetime, and his work was recognized nearly fifty years after he made his hypothesis.

The National Mole Day Foundation established Mole Day in May 1991. It is officially celebrated from 6:02 a.m. to 6:02 p.m.