

MACRO Report. Spring 2026

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Overview

We are developing a platform that supports 3 distinct areas. Curriculum, Professional Development, Outreach. We also post scientific resources available to researchers.

Key activities:

The website provides resources on all 3 areas. New content has been added to the website. See below. Additionally live events are being organized as part of MACRO. ACS symposium support - \$1000 (“Celebrating Polymer Research at Primarily Undergraduate Institutions (PUIs)” at the ACS Spring 2026 National Meeting in Atlanta (March 22–26, 2026).

Curriculum. Sterner attended Community of Communities (CoC) in July 2025. Full list available @ <https://sites.google.com/view/chem-communities-2025/home>. Planning to create a governing document for MACRO that defines roles and expectations. Working with subdiscipline-specific groups to highlight the resources we can mutually share (OrganicERs, POGIL-PCL, IONiC, MolecVUE). Add activities and assessment to our educational modules

Curriculum: New lecture content is planned for the next 12 months.

Modules currently in development:

- Ring-opening polymerization
- Reversible deactivation polymerization
- Introduction to natural polymers/biopolymers (title still in development)

Soliciting ideas for new topics (email: pcostanz@calpoly.edu or esterner@lvc.edu)

- Free radical vs reversible activation deactivation polymerization
- Polymer topics in physical chemistry

Professional development (PD). The goal of MACRO's PD activities is to provide resources (currently) and eventually materials to people interested in polymer science at various stages of their career. We have published resources on the MACRO website for undergraduates seeking further graduate study in polymers. We plan to expand these resources over the next 3-5 year to address all stages of career development including graduate students, industry and early career scientists.

We are expecting another change in leadership of this initiative. Piril Ertem will be stepping down and replacements are being solicited. Dominik Konkolewicz cycling back to MACRO and we have recruited several volunteers to assist. Panel in November: “Finding and applying for industrial jobs” was moderated by Kailei Goodier and had over 140 register and 79 unique viewers. Panelists: Dallin Smith, Logan Sanow, Progyateg Chakma

Outreach. We have created a depository of outreach materials for individuals to be able to spread their passion and knowledge of science to the general population. MACRO just launched an interface where individuals can share what they are currently utilizing in their communities and receive appropriate recognition for their contributions to the Polymer community.

MACRO has repeatedly encountered difficulty in collecting outreach events. As such, we have developed a funding mechanism of the POLY/PMSE student chapters to apply for funding and assist in the development of materials. The UMass chapter received funding in November 2025 for an event and is currently developing content for the website.

Two new modules, including “how to” document and video description, have been added to the website (Hosting an elementary school science demo show & How to Hold a Farmers' Market Booth).