

OrganicERs Community of Transformation: Activities, Evolving Leadership Structure, and Opportunities to Join Us

BCCE 2026



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OrganicERs (Organic Education Resources)

Mission – to improve student success in Organic Chemistry by increasing faculty awareness and effective implementation of evidence-based instructional and assessment practices.

Humble beginnings –

- 2012 BCCE lunch meeting
- Desired website and online community.

Website (organicers.org)

Membership is open to verified instructors of organic chemistry lecture and/or lab.

[Home](#)[About OrganicERs](#) ▼[Published Materials](#) ▼[Curriculum Materials](#) ▼[Organic Topics](#)[Forums](#)[News](#) ▼

Welcome to OrganicERs.org!

Community Activities

Year	Activity	Participants	Facilitators	Funding
2013-17	In-person summer workshops	122	11	NSF (cCWCS)
2018-20	Writing		5	None!
2021	Online workshop w/ FLCs	25	8	NSF (IUUSE)
2022-23	In-person workshops w/ FLCs	56	11	NSF (IUUSE)
2024-25	Opened FLCs to community (no workshop!)	37	14	None!
2025-26	Online workshop FLCs, CDTs	29 (workshop) 43 (FLC+CDT)	11 19	None!

1) ACS Symposium Series 1336, **2019**

2) *J. Chem. Educ.* **2020**, 97, 106-111

3) *Chem. Educ. Res. Pract.* **2020**, 387-398

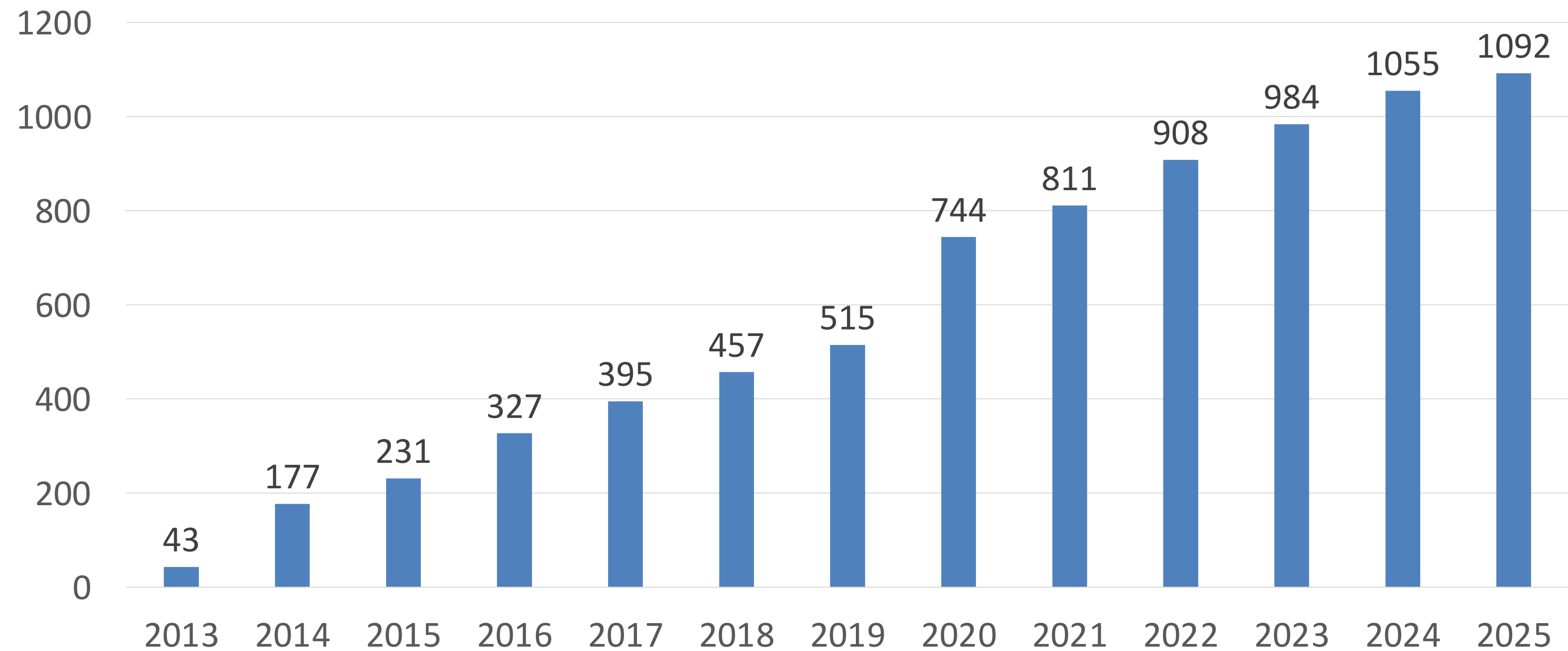
4) Successful NSF proposal **2020**

5) *J. Chem. Educ.* **2026**, 103, 1968-1976



Community Growth

OrganicERs (Website) Membership by Year



Addressing Sustainable Leadership

Problems:

- Too few people, too many responsibilities
- No mechanism to
 - select, train, and develop new leaders
 - step down

Addressing Sustainable Leadership: Fellows

Solution: implemented Fellows program in 2024

Purpose: to recruit additional members to the leadership team who would commit to filling a specific role for one year.

Recruitment: reached out to former workshop participants

- VERY successful! (11 Fellows in first cohort)
- Initial Fellows are now mentoring new Fellows
- More open and inclusive selection of new leaders
- But ... revealed need for improved leadership structure

Addressing Sustainable Leadership: Bylaws

Problems:

- Fellows vs. Leadership Board (LB) members?
- No mechanism for Fellows to move to LB
- How does one join or step down from LB?
- Term limits? Renewable?
- What do we do if a member isn't contributing?
- No individual empowered to take actions

Solution: developed and adopted bylaws over ~ 10 months

Bylaws Summary

Steering Committee

- SC chair and 8 subcommittee chairs
- Staggered, 3-year renewable terms
- Self-nominated from current leadership team
- Charges: provide long-term vision, write grant proposals, recruit additional leaders

Leadership Board at Large

- Subcommittee members
- 1-year renewable terms
- Self-nominated from OrganicERs community
- Elected by preceding leadership team

The bylaws also allow individuals with specialized expertise to support specific activities such as grant writing or statistical analysis without serving on the LB.

Addressing Sustainable Leadership: Steering Committee (3-year commitment)

Elected Members of the Steering Committee



*Justin Houseknecht
Wittenberg Univ.
SC Chair '29*



*Leslie Nickerson
Idaho State Univ.
ALOC Workshops '27*



*Dee Jacobs
Rider Univ.
FLCs '27*



*Kristen Barrett
Rowan Univ.
CDTs '27*



*Jonathan Dannatt
Univ. of Dallas
Newsletter '28*



*Ian Rhile
Albright College
Community Effect. '29*



*Cathy Welder
Dartmouth College
Membership '28*



*Jennifer Muzyka
Centre College
Website '28*



*Stephanie Brouet
Saginaw Valley State Univ.
Peer Review '29*



OrganicERs

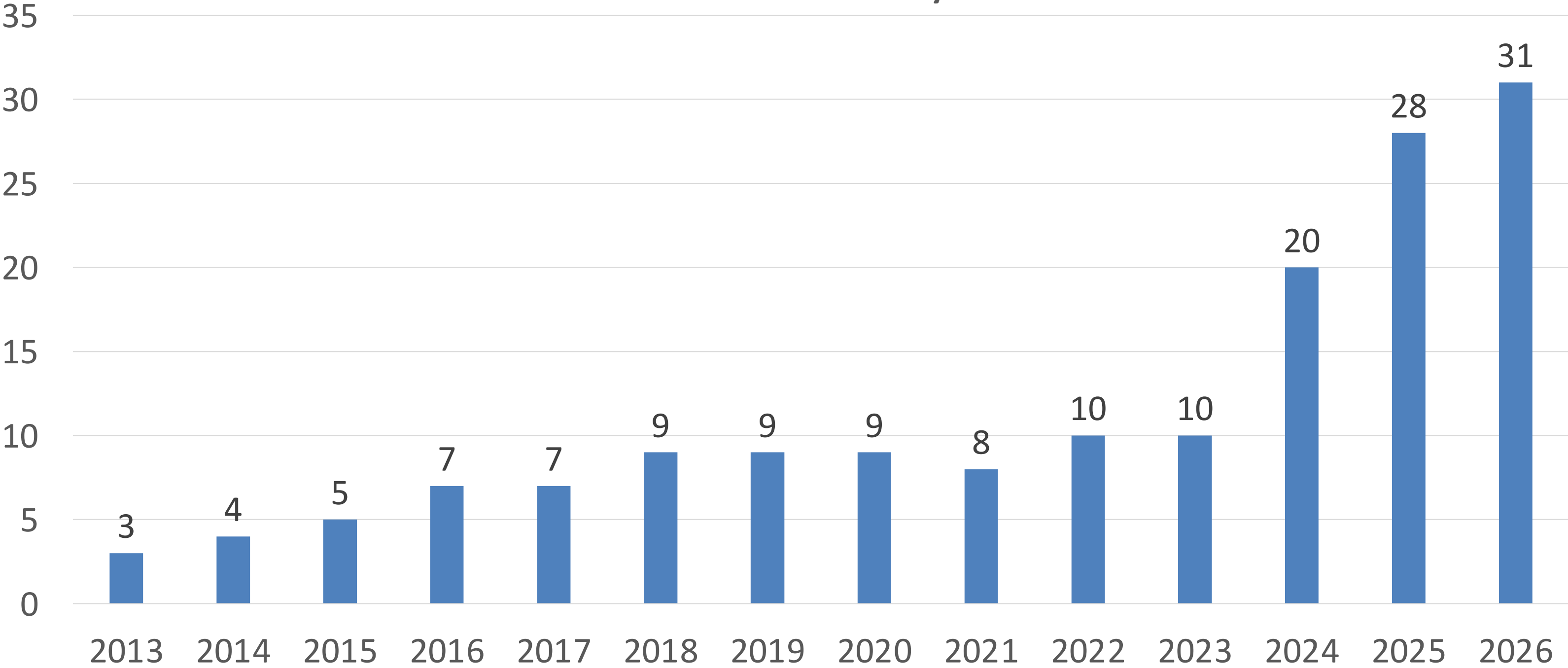
*community
innovation
transformation*

2026 Full Leadership Board



Leadership Growth

Number of Leaders by Year



Ongoing Challenges (and Some Solutions)

Funding

- In-person workshops
- Research stipends
- Incentivizing faculty participation in research projects
- Website hosting and email services (ACS DOC will support)
- DOIs for peer reviewed learning objects (individual donors)



Give Lively

Recruiting additional leaders

- Fellows program with one-year commitments seems to be working well!

Impact

- In-person workshops are more impactful



Join an FLC or CDT for AY 2026-2027



● **Faculty Learning Communities (FLCs)** support faculty in developing and implementing evidence-based instructional materials in their classrooms.

● **Curriculum Development Teams (CDTs)** develop peer-reviewed curricular materials that can be readily adopted by OrganicERs members.

	Topic	Facilitators	Day/Time
FLC	Building Metacognitive Practices in Organic Chemistry	Rebecca Black (Butler U) Rick Mullins (Xavier U)	Friday 4 pm (EST)
	Classroom Response Systems	Janell Mahoney (U Nevada Reno) Brigitte Wex (Lebanese American U)	Tuesday 12 pm (EST)
	Formative Assessment	Jeremy Klosterman (UC San Diego) Gidget Tay (Pasadena City College)	Friday 12 pm (EST)
	From Context to Concept: Designing Case-Based Activities for Organic Chemistry	Animesh Aditya (Kennesaw State U) Dee Jacobs (Rider U)	Friday 1 pm (EST)
	Innovative Laboratory Modules & Assessments	Laura Sessions (Valencia C) David Quist (Trine U)	Thursday 3 pm (EST)
CDT	Creating Formative Assessments with Biological Applications in Organic Chemistry	Kristen Barrett (Rowan U) Jennifer Chaytor (Saginaw Valley State U)	Monday 4pm (EST)
	Building Formative Assessment Strategies in Organic Chemistry	Ian Rhile (Albright C) Charlie Cox (Duke U)	Wednesday 4pm (EST)
	Formative Assessment in Green Chemistry	Alexey Leontyev (North Dakota State U) Scott Donnelly (Arizona Western C)	TBD (CST) or (PST)



Read descriptions and register!

- Completely free!
- Virtual, monthly meetings
- Groups of 9 or less, led by two experienced facilitators

Acknowledgements

- ACS Division of Organic Chemistry to host OrganicERs website and help us email our members
- Joe Ward, DOC treasurer and web team lead will help transition the website to DOC and setup the Give Lively fundraiser (to pay for DOI subscription service)

How Can You Get Involved?

OrganicERs homepage



FLCs/CDTs



Give Lively



organicers.org

