



*virtu*AIChE®

This month's meeting:

*Primary (with live discussion/live chat) Wednesday, Apr 28 at 9 pm ET (US) / 1 am GMT
Alternate 1 (with live discussion/live chat) Thursday, Apr 29 at 7 am ET (US) / 11 am GMT
Alternate 2 (with live discussion/live chat) Thursday, Apr 29 at 1 pm ET (US) / 5 pm GMT*

Impactful Online Meetings

Presented by Emil Kresl,
Director of the Learning & Development office, The University of Texas at Austin

Join us for tips on making your online meetings impactful, as Emil Kresl from UT Austin shares concepts to ensure rewarding and productive virtual meetings.

Working remotely can be logistically and psychologically difficult. Virtual meetings seem to be taking an especially heavy toll. There are, however, ways to use the virtual environment to our professional advantage. During this event you will learn the value of three principles for virtual meetings:

- Explicit expectations and intentions
- Creating a structure for engagement
- Accommodating participants

The intended outcome of this event is to provide participants with the concepts to help ensure that virtual meetings are rewarding and productive.

Emil Kresl is the founding director of the Learning & Development office for The University of Texas at Austin. He specializes in adapting otherwise complex professional concepts and tools for use in everyday life. He believes continuous learning is critical to well being. His book, *Self-leadership: The Art and Science of Control*, examines behavioral and cultural issues that often hold people back from realizing their full potential. It provides accessible tools and concepts that help people overcome obstacles to be more effective reaching their goals. Emil holds master's degrees in Public Affairs and Community and Regional Planning.

**Note that registration for VLS meetings is required.
Our meetings are still free to attend and open to all.**

April Meeting Registration Information

Primary	Alternate 1	Alternate 2
(Live Presentation/Live Chat)	(Recorded Presentation/Live Chat)	(Recorded Presentation/Live Chat)
Apr 28 at 9 PM EST / 1 AM GMT	Apr 29 at 7 AM EST / 10 AM GMT	Apr 29 at 1 PM EST / 5 PM GMT
Register in advance for the Primary Meeting	Register in advance for the Alternate 1 Meeting	Register in advance for the Alternate 2 Meeting

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing instructions for joining the meeting, along with add-to-calendar links.

Introducing Our February Meeting Raffle Winner!

Every month, a dues-paying member who signed in for the duration of the monthly webinar is selected at random to win a free year of VLS membership (Executive Committee members and previous winners during the current year are ineligible). We are pleased to introduce our February winner – Humberto Cortes.



Q: What made you want to be a chemical engineer

A: During my high school years, I loved math and chemistry and back then studying engineering looked like the right thing to do. Moreover, after visiting the town where the main refinery in my country was located, I was fascinated with all the equipment in the production plants and all the technologies involved and I realized that pursuing a chemical engineering career was my path forward.

Q: What school did you go to?

A: I went to the Universidad Nacional de Colombia at Bogota

Q: What kind of jobs have you held?

A: During my whole career I have always worked as process engineer for Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) companies, mainly developing oil and gas industry projects in Colombia, the Middle East, Mexico and USA.

Q: Where do you live?

A: Currently I am living in Fulshear, a small city located just west of Houston, Texas.

Q: Why did you join the Virtual Local Section?

A: I joined because I am always willing to learn new concepts and ideas and refresh my acquired knowledge and I think that the VLS meetings are an excellent opportunity for doing so. Besides that, the VLS meetings are also a good networking opportunity.

Q: Any hobbies that are connected to chemical engineering

A: In the past few years, I have been making beer at home and I can say that I have completed some batches of fair quality beer.

Do You Have This In-Demand Soft Skill Employers Look For?

by Dr. Lucia Feng, President & CEO
OnCareerSuccess Inc.

Adaptability - How Employers Look For It

If you are currently in job search, look for the keywords or phrases in the job posting that refer to key "soft" and "hard" skills. Inclusion of the key soft skills you have -- skills which are also seen as transferable skills -- in your resume and LinkedIn profile will likely increase your chance of being contacted for the initial screen, the first step to getting invited for interviews that puts you on the road to eventually getting the job.

In your interviews, be prepared for interviewers asking you questions that showcase your adaptability skills. The interviewers would be looking for evidence in your answers to evaluate if the skill is present with the following sample behavioral-based interview questions:

- Tell me about a time when you had to learn to use a new tool / a new procedure at work. How long did it take you to learn it before you can use it without help?
- Tell me about a time when you had to adjust to changes for which you have no control over. For example, you get a new manager or you need to service a new client who is a difficult person
- For candidates at senior-level positions, describe a specific case when you were able to make someone feel comfortable when dealing with a delicate situation with a lot of feelings involved

Even if you are not in job search, how you conduct yourself as you go about doing your job daily and interacting with your colleagues affect how you are perceived by management. In turn, this perception can impact your career growth, promotions and candidacy for types of job opportunities for which your manager or other groups within the company may consider you for. One common situation would be how you adapt your working style to work with remote or local team members from a background or culture that are different from yours. Another situation is how you meet new challenges without being afraid of the unknown or new situations.

Showing you are open-minded, not afraid of the unknown and taking risks, capable of learning new skills, or flexible in adjusting your work style to collaborate with team members from different culture or different functional background could positively impact your job search and/or your career growth trajectory.

Adaptability - How Do You Gain or Learn This Soft Skill?

Take the time to consider your own strengths and weaknesses. For the soft skill of adaptability, can you reflect and recall examples of how you reacted to sudden changes, dealt with unpredictable conditions, or took on new tasks?

Is adaptability a new skill you need to learn? Or do you have the adaptability skill but need to improve, master and practice it?

You can learn adaptability skill by taking in-person training or by online learning through webinars offered by career management and professional development educational enterprises such as [OnCareerSuccess](#) and other training establishments. The "[Adapting To Change At Work](#)" webinar was specifically developed by expert career coach to teach you to understand why changes take place at work, how we react or respond to changes, and what actionable strategies we can use to adapt to changes at work.

In contrast, if you need to improve this specific skill, consider pushing yourself to adopt changes and adapt to changes, being flexible and open to new ideas, and changing with the workplace as a living metric of the work in progress of your professional and career development. When you succeed with doing your job better - possibly measured in higher business revenue, new product development success, or increased scope of responsibilities -- because the learned adaptability skill becomes a part of you, your continuous mastery and practice of this key in-demand skill could translate to better job security, increased job responsibilities or new job offers, and improved professional career growth.

Most importantly, when the in-demand soft skill "adaptability" becomes a consistent part of you, it will power you through ever-shifting job markets because this transferable skill will be applicable and relevant to other jobs and professions you may pursue over the years to come.

OnCareerSuccess is offering a limited 50% off on the "Adapting to Change at Work" webinar through the month of May for all AIChE-VLS members.

AIChE News

The AIChE hosts technical conferences around the world. Check www.aiche.org/conferences for registration and presentation information for this year's events.

Dates	Event
April 5 – 6	RAPID Deploy Conference: Modular Technologies for Waste-to-X
April 9 – 11	2021 Mid-Atlantic Student Regional Conference
April 10 – 11	2021 Eckhardt Northeast Student Regional Conference
April 13 – 15	2 nd Competitive Energy Systems Symposium
April 13	CCPS South East Asia Regional Members Virtual Meeting
April 14	Overview Webinar for the CCPS Risk Analysis Screening Tool (RAST)
April 14	Smart Manufacturing for the Process Industries
April 15	Develop Operational Resilience and Business Continuity in Chemical Manufacturing
April 16 – 17	2021 North Central Student Regional Conference
April 16 – 17	2021 Mid-America Student Regional Conference
April 18 – 23	2021 AIChE Virtual Spring Meeting and 17 th Global Congress on Process Safety
April 19 – 20	Rock Stars of Regenerative Engineering – Chicago
April 24 – 25	3 rd Natural Gas Utilization Workshop
April 26	RAPID Technology Showcase Featuring eTEA Standards
April 27	On-line Training Session for Chemical Hazard Engineering Fundamentals (CHEF) for use with Risk Analysis Screening Tools (RAST)
April 27	CCPS South East Asia Regional Members Virtual Meeting
April 28	April 2021 TSC Meeting
April 29	Safety of Water Electrolysis
April 30	2021 Pacific Northwest Student Regional Conference

April 30	2021 Western Student Regional Conference
May 4	Safe Zone Ally Training Workshop – Level 1
May 11	Safe Zone Ally Training Workshop – Level 2
May 14	2021 Sustainable Energy Corps Workshop
May 16 – 19	International Conference on Accelerated Carbonation for Environmental and Material Engineering (ACEME 2021)
May 18 – 19	2021 Delaware Chemical Ventures Conference
May 18 – 20	2 nd PD2M Future of Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Conference
May 24 – 26	Engineering of Cell, Tissue and Organ Systems

Upcoming VLS Meetings

The VLS has monthly meetings. The following meetings have firm dates and speakers.

Dates	Topic
May 2021	Biomimicry: Green Chemistry Innovations Inspired by Nature
June 2021	Renewable Energy Storage

Past VLS Meetings

The VLS records its monthly meetings and archives them on the AIChE Academy website in case you missed a meeting or are looking for a particular topic. See below for current recordings.

Date	Event
Aug 2020	Physical Property Models to Design Better Chemical Products
Jul 2020	Julia - A Fresh Approach to Technical Computing
Jun 2020	The Next Digital Leap to AI (An Interactive Webinar)
May 2020	Challenges and Benefits of Remote Operator Training using Cloud-Deployed High-Fidelity, First-Principles Based Standard Operator Training Simulators (SOTS)
Apr 2020	NASEM Chemical Engineering in the 21st Century Study: Give your input!
Mar 2020	Is Your Focus Your Magic!
Feb 2020	DIERS data/standards in HAZOPS of two phase flow
Jan 2020	A Brief History of Measurement
Nov 2019	Using Thermal Imaging to Guard Industrial Facilities
Oct 2019	Python for chemical engineers: Getting started
Aug 2019	Reactive Chemical Hazards
Jul 2019	Should I Py or Should I Fortran?
Jun 2019	Design Considerations for Organic Electronic Materials and Devices
May 2019	Why Can't You Compete Without Virtual/Augmented Reality in Your Plant
Apr 2019	The Chemistry of Bourbon: The "spirit" of molecules
Mar 2019	Demystifying Professional Engineering Licensure and How to Put it to Work for you
Feb 2019	Municipal Wastewater and Sludge Are a Resource, Not a Waste: Coping with Tightening Water Supplies and Limited Landfill Availability

We're in this Together

The ongoing COVID-19 situation has provided us with a reminder that even in uncertain times, AIChE is a diverse community of people who lead, create, inspire and learn—together. AIChE is here to help. Knowing that many of our members are working virtually, AIChE has created this page to act as a hub for online content, access to communities, and communication updates. [Learn more.](#)

The Virtual Local Section's Executive Committee

Officers

Chair:	Paul Adamson
Senior Vice Chair:	Aaron Sarafinas
Vice Chair:	Steve Treese
Immediate Past Chair:	Dan Lambert
Secretary:	Laura Gimpelson
Treasurer:	Jennifer Brand

Directors

Member Care	Fred Fischl
Publicity	Paul Wissmann
Newsletter	Mario Arredondo
Programming	Scott Clarke
	Kirsten Rosselot
Member Feedback	Richard Evans

Did You Know?

You can visit [the VLS website](#) for more information on the Virtual Local Section's mission, activities, and membership. Also at this website, AIChE student members and VLS members can watch previous webinars for free.

Subscription Information

Current fully paid members of the Virtual Local Section receive this newsletter. If you wish to update your email address, contact the AIChE's New York Office for Permanent Address Corrections at xpress@aiche.org or 1-800-242-4363.

Continuing Education Credits

Members of AIChE can receive 1 hour of continuing education/professional development credit for attending Virtual Local Section webinars. Send your name, the certificate number on your professional engineer's license, and the licensing entity (state or country) in which you are licensed to our Secretary, [Laura Gimpelson](#), to receive one hour of continuing education credit for attending this meeting.