The North Jersey Section of the American Chemical Society established the Baekeland Award in 1944 to commemorate the technical and industrial achievements of Leo Hendrik Baekeland and to encourage younger chemists to emulate his example. The award consists of a gold medal and a $5,000 honorarium. The North Jersey Section presents the Award biennially to a US-based chemist under 40 years of age in recognition of accomplishments in pure or industrial chemistry, as characterized by the initiative, creativeness, leadership, and perseverance of the individual and indicated by published or unpublished evidence.