



ASCLS is excited to introduce the ASCLS Voices Under 40, a monthly recognition of one of our many, talented and committed young professionals under 40 years old. The ASCLS Voices Spotlight has been developed to honor ASCLS members who have shown exceptional commitment to ASCLS, the laboratory profession, and their community at large at a younger age in their professional career. Each month we spotlight one of the Shining Voices who were selected from many nominations across the country.

Please meet Kate Bernhardt, MS, MLS(ASCP)<sup>cm</sup>, LSSGB from Elmhurst, Illinois

Kate was recently promoted to Laboratory Manager of the Core and Specials Laboratory at Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood, Illinois. She has enjoyed learning this new role and is excited for the opportunity to challenge herself, learn, and strengthen new skills while advocating for the laboratory and lab professionals. "I derive a lot of personal meaning and satisfaction by interacting with others and advocating for the laboratory, both within work at Loyola and through ASCLS."



"ASCLS is a huge part of my identity as a lab professional. As a student, I attended the ASCLS-IL State meetings, and truly fell in love with this organization when I attended the Legislative Symposium in Washington DC." Over the years, Kate has stayed active in ASCLS on a regional and state level. She served as the regional Government Affairs Committee Chair, Illinois State Membership Chair, Website Liaison, and State Meeting Chair. Kate has also helped promote the profession by presenting lectures at State and National meetings and helped to decorate MLS themed Christmas Trees at the Brookfield Zoo Tree Trim event.

When asked about her best personal accomplishment within ASCLS, she replied with: "Serving as the Chair of the 2018 Annual Meeting and Exhibits. It was truly an honor to serve as Chair and facilitate the planning process; it has been an incredible experience working with a talented group of colleagues (friends),

volunteering their time for the mutual purpose of planning an excellent state meeting.”

Kate was given excellent recommendations for the Voices Under 40 Award. Here is what one of her nominator’s stated: “Under Kate’s leadership we successfully implemented the SoftTech Accreditation Manager. This software helps our laboratory maintain ongoing inspection readiness. Kate worked closely with our laboratory leadership team to implement this program which resulted in our lab receiving no laboratory general deficiencies during our CAP inspection.” They also said, “Kate really knows how to develop community. She has introduced several members of our department to ASCLS-IL and has helped them become successful in local leadership positions.”

Outside of ASCLS, Kate’s proudest achievement was leading successful projects as the Regulatory Compliance Specialist at Loyola. She earned her Just Culture (Workplace Accountability) Certificate, Lean Six Sigma Green Belt and was the project manager on a couple of workgroups.

Kate also is a proud mother of a kind, funny three year old, who already knows both of his parents are “laboratory scientists”. They read lots of STEM books together, and she can’t wait for him to be old enough for his first microscope.