



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 Cherika Robertson, M.Ed., MLS (ASCP)^{cm} from Bauxite, Arkansas.

Cherika is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Laboratory Sciences at the University of Arkansas in Little Rock. She serves as an instructor for Hematology and Blood Bank lectures, as well as the corresponding laboratories. Cherika wrote in her application, "Working with future laboratory scientists gives me great joy, as I am able to share and pass on my love for laboratory science, and encourage students to become members of ASCLS and remain active."



Cherika joined ASCLS after entering the world of academia. After attending her first Clinical Laboratory Educator's Conference in Cincinnati and National Convention in Atlanta, she was hooked. She said, "My motivation for being actively involved in ASCLS is to promote, recruit, educate and advocate for the profession of Medical Laboratory Science." Today, Cherika serves on the National Membership Committee and is the Region VII Membership Development Representative. In her home state of Arkansas she has served on the board since 2014 and is currently the State President Elect. Cherika is also a Board Member of the Arkansas CLMA chapter and is helping to plan a joint ASCLS-CLMA state meeting.

When asked what her best personal accomplishment has been within ASCLS, she responded with, "Being elected to President-Elect of Arkansas. To be considered worthy as a leader of my state is the utmost compliment. Although I did not write the letter, being in the position has given me the opportunity to advertise and

promote the opportunity for laboratory professionals to meet with the Arkansas Governor, Asa Hutchinson. He signed a proclamation declaring Medical Laboratory Professionals Week for the state of Arkansas in front of several medical laboratory professionals and the local newspaper.”

Cherika was highly recommended for this award by her peers. One of her nominators had this to say about her. “If chosen for the Voices Under 40 Award, you can be guaranteed that Cherika will continue to be one of our profession’s biggest cheerleaders. Cherika is young, energetic, with a strong commitment to the field of CLS and to the ASCLS organization. She genuinely cares about the future of our profession and sharing its strengths and challenges with her students and the CLS professionals she encounters.”

Outside of ASCLS, Cherika’s greatest achievement is receiving her Masters of Education Degree. She grew up in a rural community in South Arkansas and she was the first in her family to graduate from college. Her mother had always stressed how important it was to be educated and have a job with stability and security. While completing her master’s degree, Cherika worked full time, balanced family (she even got pregnant), and cared for her sick mother. When her mother passed away she was even more determined to complete her Masters. Cherika said, “This was definitely a challenge, and required determination, sacrifice and hard work, but it is an accomplishment that I am proud of.”