



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 Leticia Nunez-Argote, MPH, CPH, MLS (ASCP)^{CM} from Kansas City, Kansas.

Leticia is currently employed by University of Kansas Medical Center as a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences. In this role, she is responsible for teaching upper division undergraduate courses in basic and clinical immunology, and graduate lecture courses for the doctoral program in research methods, with an emphasis in qualitative research, and clinical correlations. She also conducts collaborative and independent scholarly activities associated with education research and program development, health policy, and translational research including her current study focusing on biomarkers of inflammation and chronic disease in individuals of Hispanic/Latino heritage. Her service to the university includes chairing the School of Health Professions faculty elections committee. Additional service activities include involvement with management of program applications and participation in prospective student advising and current CLS student mentoring. These activities allow her to connect with people who are considering or are actively pursuing an education in CLS. In her conversations with students she is able to show her own passion for the clinical laboratory and listen to their expectations and plans; these interactions fill her with energy and hope for the future.



Leticia believes ASCLS provides context and connection in trying to achieve a united voice for the laboratory profession. She continues to be active in ASCLS because she believes its mission, beliefs and core values directly address the issue of helping people reach their full potential. She states "a profession in clinical laboratory science has given me the tools, the knowledge, and self-sufficiency to pursue justice and autonomy for myself and others. And ASCLS has been a huge catalyst and has provided me with a platform to share my experiences and my work with other laboratory professionals and with the world."

When asked what her favorite personal accomplishment has been within ASCLS, Letycia responded with "I think my best personal accomplishment has been to be elected as Representative-at-Large for the ASCLS-Kansas chapter. In this capacity I have been recognized by my peers as someone who they want to represent them, and someone who is committed to communicating a positive message and amplifying the voices of laboratory professionals in our state. I hope to live up to this expectation, and to move forward serving in larger roles in our state, regionally, nationally, and internationally."

Letycia was highly recommended for this award by her peers. One of her nominators commented: "One of the things that I admire most about Letycia is the power in her voice as a legislative enthusiast on behalf of laboratory professionals." And, also noted that "Letycia is an amazing laboratory professional, an innovative educator, and a rising star in legislative advocacy for clinical laboratory science. I am inspired by her promising body of work, energized by her enthusiasm, motivated by her leadership, and her passion for laboratory science is absolutely contagious (her students will strongly echo this sentiment)."

Outside of ASCLS, Letycia's greatest achievement is being admitted to the doctoral program in health policy and management at the University of Kansas. She states "my background in clinical laboratory science and public health brings a unique perspective and I am honored to be a part of the program. Being deemed worthy of pursuing this degree has increased my commitment to work hard and continue to polish my skills in order to better understand the policies that affect the healthcare system, particularly when it comes to those that can be detrimental to the practice of laboratory science. If asked where will I be in 5 years my answer would be: I cannot tell you; but what I want is that in 50 years my work will have had a positive impact that ensures stability, justice, and equity for patients, laboratory scientists and healthcare workers everywhere."