



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 Cara Bushmaker, MLS(ASCP)^{CM} from Hamilton, MT.

Cara is employed as a Technical Supervisor at Marcus Daly Memorial Hospital in Hamilton, Montana. Cara has served on the Leadership Development Team as a member and most recently as Chair of the team. She also served as a member of the Ebola Preparedness Taskforce and incorporated BSL preparedness into the current laboratory design to be ready for the next emerging infectious disease, as well as testifying before the City Council as a subject matter expert on COVID-19.



Cara has held many roles within ASCLS-MT starting as a student representative in 2018 to the new professional forum representative, then as a board member, newsletter editor, and then president of ASCLS-MT in 2019 as well as on the board of the ASCLS region VIII. Additionally, she has served on the planning committees for both the ASCLS-MT and the region VIII IMSS annual meetings.

Cara has been driven to be active in ASCLS because when she found her career as a medical laboratory scientist, she found her passion. She feels blessed to have found this career and hopes to "help that next person discover this as their passion as well" by promoting education in science, healthcare and clinical laboratory science. Which is evidenced by her active participation in science and career fairs to promote and recruit people to the field of medical laboratory science.

When asked what her favorite personal accomplishment has been within ASCLS, Cara stated that it all began with the day she became the student representative in 2018 at the age of 24. That single opportunity has led to the next opportunity, which lead to the next opportunity, leading her to take on greater roles, and given her the opportunity to network and be a catalyst for ASCLS-MT to grow their social media presence and lead her constituent society through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Cara was highly recommended for this award by her peers. One of her nominators stated that she was a "bright light and natural leader". In regard to her work as editor of the Montana Laboratory News, fellow ASCLS-MT member stated that she

“pushed the envelope and developed a phenomenal product” which won 1st place in the 2019 ASCLS Newsletter Award.

Outside of ASCLS, Cara states that her greatest achievement is her family. Through her family’s support, she was able to become president-elect of ASCLS-MT and serve while pregnant and serve as president while raising two pre-school aged children. She states that her amazingly supportive husband is the “reason I get to have it all. My beautiful family and a career I absolutely love!”