



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 Kelie Augustine from Honolulu, Hawaii.

Kelie's primary job is as full-time faculty of the MLT program at Kapi'olani Community College, where she teaches Clinical Microbiology I/II, Clinical Chemistry I, Immunohematology, Body Fluids, and Intro to Clinical Laboratory Science. She is also a part-time Technical Consultant for Abbott Rapid Diagnostics and conducts trainings on many of their infectious disease testing. As if that wasn't enough, Kellie is also in the Army National Guard and will be commissioning as an officer soon. She serves ASCLS in many capacities on a state level for Hawaii, serving on both their 2020 Task Force and their Website Task Force.



When asked why Ms. Augustine continues to be active in ASCLS, her response was as uplifting as she is. "My job hinges on the awareness of the medical laboratory field. I do a lot of promotion of the profession through outreach myself; however, I know ASCLS is constantly fighting for laboratorians to be "seen" and educating the public on what we do. It's not just job security, I felt that as an Medical Laboratory Technician instructor, it is my duty to help the future graduates of our college's MLT program by becoming more actively involved in ASCLS."

When asked what her favorite personal accomplishment has been within ASCLS, Kelie responded with this. "Last year, our membership was very close to 100 members. This year, I made a huge effort in encouraging my MLT students to join ASCLS. But that effort helped us get back into three digits for our membership count. It wasn't easy, as the COVID-19 pandemic has made everyone reanalyze their finances and even a small membership fee can be discouraging, especially to college students. Besides telling them my experiences in the society, I "sold" them with the various learning opportunities and the networking possibilities by joining ASCLS. My next step is to get my students engaged as active members so that they remain as members for the rest of their careers!" How encouraging!

Ms. Augustine was highly recommended for this award by her peers. One of her nominators had this to say, "She knows how to make others feel they are the center of her attention. This is not commonly practiced by people in her generation... Kelie is a rising star in the ASCLS-HI chapter. She can be counted on to recruit students from KCC to participate in ASCLS-HI activities... It made me feel reassured that Kelie is part of a new generation of leaders in ASCLS. She is now on the local ballot as the 2021-2022 ASCLS-HI President-Elect. It is reasonable to expect she will be a breath of fresh air in the local ASCLS-HI leadership."

Outside of ASCLS, Kelie's greatest achievement is being able to teach. "Anytime I get an email telling me the good news that they've passed their MLT ASCP Board of Registry exam, I feel such a sense of pride. Of course, passing the exam is their achievement but even after they've been certified, many of them still reach out to me to tell me how their careers are going. Being that person that my students feel comfortable keeping in their lives makes me feel like I've made a difference. And they sure have made a difference on me."

We all look forward to seeing what else this rising star can accomplish next!