



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.

Heather Kobza, MLS(ASCP)^{CM} MB^{CM} from Vail, Arizona.

Heather is employed as an Advance Staff Medical Technologist The Southern Arizona Veteran's Affairs Health Care System (SAVAHCS) in Tucson, Arizona. Heather's position at the VA includes assisting the technical specialists in the Chemistry and Special Chemistry departments with training of new employees, validation of new assays, advanced troubleshooting. She serves as the key resource for coworker's questions. She became part of the LEAD program at SAVI also serve on the SAVAHCS DECON Team providing rapid deployment in the case of a chemical or biological disaster.

Heather has held many roles within ASCLS-AZ/NV starting as a developing professional forum representative from 2011-2014 then as the ascending professional forum representative from 2014-2016. Heather was then elected to the ASCLS AZ/NV board of directors for the 2016-2018 term and then to President of ASCLS-AZ/NV for 2018-2021. Nationally, Heather is a 2018 Leadership Academy graduate and was appointed to the ASCLS Mentorship committee for 2018-2021 then to Chair the ASCLS Mentorship Committee during the 2019-2020 membership year.

Heather has been driven to be active in ASCLS is to help others reach find their passion and reach success. She has been active in mentorship of new members and recruiting and supporting student successful entry into the career and introduction into ASCLS.

When asked what her favorite personal accomplishment has been within ASCLS, Heather stated that it was her graduation from the Leadership Academy. She is very proud of their project aimed at promoting ASCLS to MLS and MLT students



across the nation with a small group of peers. Which is further evidence of her support of mentoring and supporting the professional growth and success of laboratorians across the nation.

Heather was recommended for this award by her peers. One of her nominators stated that She is committed to ASCLS's vision, values, and beliefs. She is a passionate laboratorian and believes that ASCLS is the best, and in some cases the only, voice for laboratorians across the country.

Both Heather and her one of her nominators are extremely proud of her ability to pursue a master's degree in public health while maintaining full-time employment and leadership in the clinical laboratory and still serving in leadership in ASCLS-AZ/NV. She stated that seeing a Masters in Public Health with a concentration in Infection Control because she wanted to connect her experience and knowledge as a laboratorian to the public health community while continuing to learn more about infectious disease, a topic which has been a fascination for her. She states, "By bringing the voice of the laboratory to the Infection Prevention team at my hospital I feel that I have broken down the first barrier to showing the value of the laboratory in the healthcare team."