



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 April Nelsen, PhD, MLS (ASCP).

Dr. April Nelsen is a Clinical Assistant Professor at South Dakota State University in Brookings, SD.

Dr. Nelsen has served in several leadership positions within ASCLS including recently as President Elect for ASCLS-SD. Some of her other recent involvements include serving as a region V secretary/ Treasurer, ASCLS-SD nominations committee chair and serving on ASCLS-SD membership committee.



Dr. Nelsen served on a grant project expert panel for BREATHE-SD, a \$1.5 million project funded by HRSA to support recruitment, job placement, training and worker development of respiratory therapist and other allied health care professions in rural SD communities.

Along with her teaching and MLS clinical placement responsibilities at the University, Dr. Nelsen is actively involved in research and publications. She has published numerous scientific articles in peer reviewed journals and presented posters and oral presentations within ASCLS and other professional organizations.

When asked about her best personal achievement in ASLCS, Dr. Nelsen proudly mentions her successful co-chairing of the ASCLS-SD Spring 2023 symposium.

Dr. Nelsen feels the need of growing future leaders in both ASCLS and in the MLS profession. She wants to be the resource and mentor to newly active ASCLS members. The desire to mentor and guide new members motivates her to be actively involved in ASCLS.

Her proudest professional achievement outside of work is obtaining her PhD while working full time and raising family.

Dr. Nelsen's nominator says, "April Nelsen stands as a key figure in ASCLS, leaving a lasting impact from state to national levels. In her role as President Elect last year, she not only met her assigned tasks but went above and beyond, significantly

benefiting ASCLS-SD. Her efforts in revitalizing the ASCLS-SD Newsletter and contributing to the planning of state and regional meetings have re-energized our organization. April's approachable demeanor makes her a reliable friend and mentor, offering practical advice and unwavering support to fellow members. Her recent accomplishments, including a notable presentation of her PhD dissertation at JAM (where she clinched the Oral Competition), a second presentation at JAM, and an appearance at the ASCLS Region V Symposium, further underscore her unwavering commitment to advancing our profession and society. April Nelsen is actively shaping the future of clinical laboratory science."

Congratulations on a well-deserved award, Dr. Nelsen!