



As ASCLS strives each year to spotlight member achievements, this year ASCLS is proud to acknowledge and honor the efforts of Alese Thompson of Missouri. With over 15 years of membership with ASCLS and an impressive collection of accomplishments, her mark on the laboratory community is indelible.

Incredibly active on the local level, Alese has held many leadership positions as part of ASCLS-Missouri, from Developing Professional Director to Director, Membership Committee Chair, as well as Chair of Promotion of the Profession and District Representative. On a national level she dedicated several years to the P.A.C.E.[®] Committee. Her newest role is chairing the Association of Medical Laboratory Education Programs (AMLEP) for this Society year.



Keen to share her knowledge and experience with the profession, Alese has a dozen continuing education presentations under her belt, speaking at the Clinical Laboratory Educators Conference, CSES, CLSM, AABC, and ASCLS-MO on topics with strong themes related to recruiting laboratory talent, organizing student clinicals, effective virtual themes, and a bit of Parasitology, Mycology, and Virology to round things out. In the literary realm, Alese has worked as a contributor and reviewer to textbooks on topics like Blood Banking and Parasitology, as well as a submission for an item in MediaLab.

Themes of professional visibility and recruitment continue to pervade Alese's work as one examines her work with public relations: a long list of career fairs and presentations for all age groups, from Girls in STEM presentations to elementary and middle school children to high school career day visits, up to community college and university level presentations. She has also met with local state representatives to advocate for funding of laboratory education programs. Within her community, she has hosted several blood drives and cloth diaper drives and has served as the Bylaws Committee Chair for the PTA.

Currently, Alese is the Clinical Laboratory Science Program Coordinator at the University of Missouri College of Health Sciences. This demanding but gratifying role tasks her with comprehensive management of the CLS program, emphasizing recruitment, admissions, and advising, including oversight of these same tasks for a nearby collaborating CLS program. With the aim of optimizing student experience,

Alese coordinates student training and clinical rotations and ensures effective learning experiences at their clinical sites. Following through, she assesses student performance and provides academic support. She performs all these duties while upholding her commitment to professional development and fostering an inclusive learning environment. Alese is also attempting to establish a new standalone MLS program alongside a Histotechnician Certificate Program and a Phlebotomy Certification course, having applied for sufficient funds to launch these programs from the State of Missouri.

Alese is involved with ASCLS because it provides a channel for her "passion for advancing the field of medical laboratory science into tangible actions that contribute to the growth and recognition of laboratory professionals." Membership in ASCLS provides opportunities for collaboration with those with similar goals, share knowledge, and advocate for our profession. Participation in the various committees and conferences has been a platform to stand for causes that improve laboratory practice and outcomes. She also cites the impact on future laboratorians, citing mentorship and professional development as factors in improving workforce and quality. In summary, Alese states her drive to participate "is fueled by my desire to effect positive change, advocate for the profession, and empower the next generation of laboratory leaders."

ASCLS wishes to express gratitude for Alese's service and commitment to medical laboratory education and to our organization as a whole. Her dedication to excellence and progress and her impact on the profession are worthy of recognition and celebration. Congratulations, Alese!