

# CLEC

## 2026

## **42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Clinical Laboratory Educators Conference**

February 5-7, 2026  
Bellevue, Washington

[ascls.org/clec](https://ascls.org/clec)

**ATTEND IN-PERSON OR VIRTUALLY**

Register for #CLEC2026 by **December 3** and **SAVE!**



## CLEC 2026

The Clinical Laboratory Educators Conference (CLEC) is the most impactful annual gathering for faculty, administrators, directors, advisers, and all in medical laboratory education. It is a shared experience unlike any other—educators from all types of programs and with varying years of experience gather to exchange innovative ideas, discuss research activities, and receive support from their peers.

While attending CLEC, you will identify new trends in laboratory education, develop innovative teaching techniques, manage change, enhance instructional skills, and so much more. The educational content addresses the diverse needs of our educator community. Designed to give you take-aways that you can bring home and implement in your program, educational sessions focus on educational theory, program management, and meeting the needs of students.

In addition to the educational program, CLEC provides valuable opportunities to meet with industry partners and collaborate with other educators in your discipline. Discover new products and services that can support and enhance your instructional methods, and build your network of educators who share your passion to provide excellent clinical laboratory education.



Check the CLEC website for additional details as they become available. Read the eCLECtic blog for regular updates on new program developments and interesting opportunities for CLEC 2026. [ascls.org/clec](http://ascls.org/clec)

## CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT

CLEC provides a wide range of educational opportunities to meet your continuing education needs. The 2026 program offers nearly 40 hours of P.A.C.E.®-approved, quality educational programming.

ASCLS P.A.C.E.® is accepted by ASCLS, the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP), and the Association of Genetic Technologists Board of Certification and all states for recertification and licensure. ASCLS is an approved provider of continuing education programs in the clinical laboratory sciences by the ASCLS P.A.C.E.® Program. ASCLS is an approved provider with CE Broker for Florida licensees and will submit attendance to CE Broker.

To document the P.A.C.E.® credits you earn, you will be able to produce a P.A.C.E.® certificate of attendance using the ASCLS CE Organizer online at <http://ceorganizer.ascls.org>.

## GENERAL LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the conference's conclusion, participants will be able to:

- Discuss teaching strategies to engage students and improve learning outcomes.
- Integrate new topics, science, and skills into the current curriculum.
- Identify innovative and novel approaches to the education of future laboratory professionals.

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## IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE OPTIONS

To provide you with flexibility to participate in CLEC in the format that best fits your preferences, you have the option to attend CLEC either in-person in Bellevue or virtually through the streaming device of your choice, wherever you are.

**All educational sessions will be streamed live and recorded.** Both in-person and virtual registrants will have access to all session recordings for at least 30 days after the event—nearly 40 hours of P.A.C.E.<sup>®</sup>-approved credit—as well as additional virtual content provided in the conference app. You get to choose which sessions and events you want to attend live and which recordings you will view later when the time is right. Design a CLEC schedule that fits your work and personal life.

- **In-Person Attendance:** CLEC 2026 will be held at the Hyatt Regency Bellevue in Bellevue, Washington. In addition to the nearly 40 educational sessions detailed in this brochure, the event also includes peer-submitted posters, industry partner exhibits, networking activities, and select meals.
- **Virtual Attendance:** You will have access to nearly 40 educational sessions detailed in this brochure, either streamed live or recorded; industry partner virtual activities; virtual peer-submitted posters; and virtual networking events.

**CLEC 2026 Online Community:** All registered attendees will be included in the CLEC 2026 online community where you can ask questions, start discussions, and get advice from other CLEC attendees before, during, and after the event. Learn from the CLEC Host Committee about things to do and places to eat in Bellevue. Get tips from long-time CLEC attendees about how to maximize your experience. And continue collaborating with the educators you meet after CLEC 2026 wraps up.

*If your circumstances change and you want to change your registration from virtual to in-person, or vice versa, you can modify your registration at any time. Modifications from in-person to virtual attendance made before **January 21, 2026**, will include the registration payment balance refunded. After **January 21**, no refunds will be issued.*

## SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE

*All times in Pacific Time. Schedule subject to change.*

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5

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- 8:30 am – 11:00 am New Educator Workshop
- 11:30 am – 12:00 pm Networking, Industry Engagement
- 12:00 pm – 6:00 pm Opening Keynote, Educational Sessions, Industry Engagement, Networking
- 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Reception with Industry Partners

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6

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- 7:00 am – 3:45 pm Clinical Laboratory Educators Forum  
Meet Up and Breakfast, Educational Sessions,  
Industry Engagement, Networking

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7

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- 7:00 am – 11:30 am Breakfast, Educational Sessions, and Closing Keynote



## FRIDAY EVENING— FREE NIGHT IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

After a day filled with education, you have the evening free to explore in and around Bellevue. Near the Hyatt Regency you'll have plenty of cozy and lively options. Stroll through the Bellevue Collection for shopping, people-watching, and dining. If you're in the mood for a relaxed atmosphere, Old Bellevue's Main Street has intimate cafés, wine bars, and dessert spots to round out the evening.

If you want stunning views, head west into Seattle—downtown is only about 15 minutes away in light traffic, where you can catch live music, theater, or a night out in Capitol Hill. If you'd like to stay on the Eastside, Kirkland is a quick drive north and has a charming waterfront lined with restaurants, wine bars, and cozy spots like Marina Park. Redmond is just to the east and home to breweries and casual dining around Redmond Town Center.

Check the CLEC website for complete details as they become available ([ascls.org/clec](https://ascls.org/clec)).

## NEW EDUCATOR WORKSHOP

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5

8:30 am–11:00 am Pacific Time

The annual New Educators Workshop (NEW) addresses the needs of those new to educator positions in clinical laboratory science-related programs. NEW is designed to assist early-career educators with transitioning into teaching roles and support their professional development.

In this interactive, facilitator-led session, new educators will discover how the Transparency in Learning and Teaching (TiLT) framework, a research-based approach, boosts student engagement, equity, and achievement. Participants will apply the framework to their own course materials, exchange peer feedback, and refine their work to promote clarity and support diverse learners.

Attendees will have the opportunity to engage with the presenter and fellow educators via interactive presentations, discussions, and peer-to-peer learning activities.

**SPEAKER:** Kate Moreau, MPH, MAT, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>

University of Vermont

**LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION:** Basic

*Additional registration required and **available to in-person attendees only.***

*Cost: \$110 for ASCLS members/\$160 for non-members. Participants can earn 2.0 hours of P.A.C.E.<sup>®</sup> credit*



## NAACLS WORKSHOP

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 7:00 am – 11:00 am Pacific Time

The National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS) will present the following hybrid workshop, **Standard II: Assessment and Continuous Quality Improvement**.

Presenters **Janice M. Conway-Klaassen, PhD, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>SM<sup>CM</sup>, FACSc**, and **Keri Brophy-Martinez MHA/ED, MLS(ASCP)**, NAACLS Review Committee Members, will lead participants through the most frequently cited NAACLS standard.

This workshop will feature insights from experienced NAACLS content experts, interactive discussions with fellow attendees, case study examples including sample collection methods and plans, and practical tools to help participants ensure compliance, streamline documentation, and close the loop when improving your program. Whether new to accreditation or refining existing processes, attendees will leave with strategies to strengthen program quality and effectiveness.

For complete information on the workshop and to register, please visit the NAACLS website at [www.naacls.org](http://www.naacls.org) after **December 1**.

*This NAACLS workshop is SEPARATE from the CLEC Program, and the workshop registration and payments are processed directly through NAACLS. NAACLS will provide a certificate of completion for P.A.C.E. credits as an approved provider of education in clinical laboratory science by the ASCLS P.A.C.E. program.*

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## INDUSTRY PARTNER ENGAGEMENT AND EXHIBITS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 11:30 am – FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1:30 pm Pacific Time

Opportunities to engage with industry partners are integrated throughout CLEC, both in-person and virtually. Industry partners are full registrants and encouraged to participate in all aspects of the conference, including educational sessions and social events. In addition to table-top displays, partners may present Commercial Symposia to highlight products and services provided by companies and organizations. These sessions are streamed live and recorded for attendees who wish to view them later. And through the CLEC app, you can connect with exhibitors and schedule personal appointments for one-on-one conversations and demonstrations.

## EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS PREVIEW

We invite you to explore the nearly 40 educational opportunities you will experience at CLEC 2026. All educational sessions will be recorded, and registered attendees will have access to recordings for at least 30 days after the event. Each educational session is one contact hour of P.A.C.E.<sup>®</sup> credit, unless noted otherwise.

### CONCURRENT SESSIONS

#### **ACCESSIBILITY BY DESIGN: APPLYING WEB CONTENT ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES 2.1 IN MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE EDUCATION**

**SPEAKER:** Cherika Robertson, MEd, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>

University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

This session will provide an overview of Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 with a focus on digital accessibility in medical laboratory science education. Attendees will examine the four foundational principles of accessible design—perceivable, operable, understandable, and robust (POUR)—and explore how these principles can be effectively applied to create more accessible learning environments.

**LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION:** Advanced

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#### **APPLYING SELF-DETERMINATION THEORY TO MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE EDUCATION**

**SPEAKER:** Keagan Parlier, MEd, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>, University of Cincinnati

This presentation will outline Self-Determination Theory, its history and importance, and potential benefits in the context of medical laboratory education. The speaker will outline ways in which they have implemented it into their instruction and suggest ways that everyone can use it to their benefit.

**LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION:** Advanced

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#### **ASSESSMENT ISN'T A FOUR-LETTER WORD: USING STUDENT WORK TO STRENGTHEN CURRICULUM AND IMPROVE TEACHING**

**SPEAKERS:** Rachelle Barrett, MS, MLS(ASCP)<sup>SBB</sup>

Oregon Institute of Technology

**Dawn Taylor, EdM, MLS(ASCP)**, Oregon Institute of Technology

Creating a comprehensive program assessment plan is essential for ensuring continuous improvement and alignment with institutional and accreditation standards. Participants will be guided through the foundational elements of assessment planning and strategies for meaningful data collection and action planning.

**LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION:** Advanced

## **BEYOND ANDRAGOGY: UNDERSTANDING AND TEACHING THE EMERGING ADULT LEARNER**

**SPEAKER:** Ryan Collison, MEd, SC(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>

Cleveland Clinic School of Health Professions

Who is the emerging adult and what makes them different from other learners? We have been told there's traditional pedagogy and then for adult learners there's andragogy, but our students fall into a third category whose importance is growing. We will describe why this demographic exists, how it is different, and how we can best serve them.

**LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION:** Advanced

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## **BEYOND BUZZWORDS: DESIGNING TRULY INTERPROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

**SPEAKER:** Tracey Gardner, MEd, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>

Clover Park Technical College

In this interactive session, attendees will plan a truly interprofessional activity for their students using the 2023 Interprofessional Education Collaborative Core Competencies as a foundation.

**LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION:** Intermediate

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## **BEYOND THE TEXTBOOK: BUILDING LAB PROFESSIONALS IN THE TICTOK ERA OF GEN Z**

**SPEAKERS:** Esther Lim-Hinton, MS, Shoreline Community College

Nicole Lupinacci, MLT(ASCP), M(ASCP), Shoreline Community College

Banafsheh Rassaian, MLS(ASCP), Shoreline Community College

Many students struggle with multitasking, attention, and text-heavy learning. We are told that Gen Z thrives on visual, step-by-step digital formats like TikTok. This presentation explores how faculty can modernize teaching with visual tools that match students' cognitive and behavioral learning styles.

**LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION:** Intermediate

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## **BUILDING THE EDUCATOR'S HANDBOOK: PREPARING LABORATORY PROFESSIONALS FOR TEACHING ROLES**

**SPEAKER:** Leah Narans, MBA, MLS(ASCP), SSM Health

This presentation provides program directors and educators with a structured approach to equipping laboratory professionals for teaching roles through mentorship and a comprehensive handbook. Attendees will explore essential components to include, such as instructional strategies, curriculum development guidelines, and student assessment methods, helping to ensure consistent education practices.

**LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION:** Intermediate

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## **THE BUSY EDUCATOR'S WRITING TOOLKIT: SMALL STEPS, BIG RESULTS**

**SPEAKERS:** **Amber Asghar, DCLS, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>**

University of Texas Medical Branch

**Rajkumar Rajendran, DCLS, MLS(ASCP)**

University of Texas Medical Branch

**Ulises Rojo, MLS(ASCP), MB(ASCP)**

University of Texas Medical Branch

**Niti Vyas, DCLS, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>**

University of Texas Medical Branch

Scholarly productivity and dissemination are essential for educators, yet finding protected time to write remains a common challenge. As medical laboratory science educators, juggling multiple responsibilities makes finding time to write a challenge. This presentation explores effective writing strategies for busy educators, including Pomodoro Technique, micro-writing sessions, voice-to-text drafting, and WAGs.

**LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION:** Advanced

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## **CASE STUDY: INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION FOR HOSPITAL-BASED PROGRAMS**

**SPEAKER:** **Patricia Boyer, MSHS, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>**

Wisconsin Diagnostic Laboratories

This session explores the design, implementation, and outcomes of a structured interprofessional education (IPE) experience between nurse residents and medical laboratory science students in a hospital-based setting. Participants will leave with practical tools and adaptable materials to initiate or improve IPE experiences at their institutions.

**LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION:** Intermediate

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## **CREATING EFFECTIVE ASYNCHRONOUS ONLINE COURSES**

**SPEAKER:** **Malissa Norfolk, MBA, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>SH<sup>CM</sup>, PMP**

University of Maine at Augusta

Asynchronous online course pedagogical strategies are different from other teaching methods. This session will review the current best practices for asynchronous online courses, including building community, establishing a teaching presence, providing weekly to-do checklists, and much more. Methods and tools for online course reviews will be discussed.

**LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION:** Intermediate

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## **DESIGNING ENGAGING AND EFFECTIVE ONLINE LEARNING FOR CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE EDUCATION**

**SPEAKER:** Patricia Tille, PhD, MLS(ASCP)

University of Cincinnati

This presentation explores best practices in online learning for clinical laboratory science education. Emphasis is placed on instructional design, accessibility, and the creation of inclusive, interactive learning activities. Strategies for promoting meaningful engagement between students and faculty are highlighted, including peer collaboration and timely feedback.

**LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION:** Advanced

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## **DEVELOPING A ONE-WEEK CLINICAL ROTATION SIMULATION: OUR JOURNEY, FROM IDEA TO IMPLEMENTATION**

**SPEAKERS:** Denise Fix, MEd, SEd, University of New Haven

**Beth Rawson, MS, MLS(ASCP)SH,SCYM,** University of New Haven

This presentation will chronicle the design, development, and implementation of a week-long simulated clinical laboratory practicum experience. We will focus on the decision-making process used to create our simulation activities, how we identified opportunities to engage other clinical training programs in developing realistic role-playing scenarios, and the lessons learned along the way.

**LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION:** Intermediate

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## **EASING THE TRANSITION FROM CLINICAL PRACTICE TO LABORATORY EDUCATION THROUGH MENTORING**

**SPEAKER:** Malissa Norfolk, MBA, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>SH<sup>CM</sup>, PMP

University of Maine at Augusta

The value of mentorship in academia is well established, but it is even more important for professional programs like medical laboratory science as faculty members typically come directly from clinical practice and don't know the demands of academia. Establishing effective mentoring relationships can help to ease the transition, increase job satisfaction, and increase retention of novice faculty.

**LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION:** Basic

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## **EMPOWERING CAREER-READY MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE GRADUATES: IMPLEMENTING NACE COMPETENCY-BASED WORKSHOPS**

**SPEAKERS:** Margot Alvey, MS, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>, Saginaw Valley State University

Jesse McLeod, MHA, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>, Saginaw Valley State University

Presenters will share a Career Prep Workshop series designed for MLS students using National Association of Colleges & Employers (NACE) Career Readiness Competencies. Attendees will gain practical tools, implementation strategies, and student-centered learning activities leading to increased student confidence and preparedness in skills such as communication, self-awareness, and professional adaptability.

**LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION:** Basic

## **ENHANCING MICROSCOPY EDUCATION THROUGH DIGITAL INNOVATION: BRIDGING THE GAP FOR ON-CAMPUS AND ONLINE MLS STUDENTS**

**SPEAKERS:** Kassandra Erickson, EdD, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>PBT

South Dakota State University

Heather Moser, MS, MLS(ASCP), South Dakota State University

April Nelsen, PhD, MLS(ASCP), South Dakota State University

This session will explore innovative applications of digitalized microscopy in laboratory education for on-campus and online students. By using computer-enhanced microscopes and a slide scanner, we have transformed microscopy instruction, improving student engagement, accessibility, and competency. Participants will gain insights into practical implementation strategies and educational outcomes.

**LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION:** Intermediate

## **THE FERPA FILES: THE TRUTH IS \*REDACTED\***

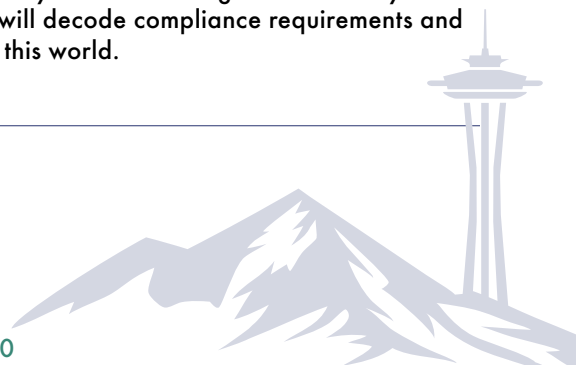
**SPEAKERS:** Cordy Kudika, MA, CHS(ACHI)

University of Texas Health San Antonio

Miles Tompkins, MLT(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>PBT<sup>CM</sup>, Diagnostic Laboratory of Oklahoma

Trust no one—except for your “special agents”—in this presentation to uncover the mysteries and key principles of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Using real-world scenarios, we will decode compliance requirements and expose the truth in a session that’s out of this world.

**LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION:** Intermediate



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## **HARNESSING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TO ADVANCE YOUR CAREER AND IMPROVE YOUR TEACHING**

**SPEAKER:** Sarah Bergbower, DCLS, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>

IECC Olney Central College

Faculty quality is dependent upon professional development. This presentation will outline, with examples, how faculty can locate and use professional development to innovate teaching methods, research, and leadership within their expertise. Participants will leave the session with ideas for classroom ingenuity and professional growth, while documenting successes.

**LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION:** Basic

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## **HISTORY'S MYSTERIES: USING HISTORICAL FIGURES IN AN INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH TO CASE STUDIES**

**SPEAKERS:** Eleanor Jator, PhD, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>, Austin Peay State University

Jane Semler, MS, MLS(ASCP), Austin Peay State University

This session will explore how the medical mysteries of famous historical figures can be transformed into engaging case studies for students. Attendees will discover innovative strategies to integrate history, laboratory diagnostics, and critical thinking into their teaching, making complex clinical concepts more memorable as delivered through an interdisciplinary lens.

**LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION:** Intermediate

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## **I CAN SEE CLEARLY NOW: MUSIC AS A TEACHING TOOL FOR MLS CONCEPTS**

**SPEAKERS:** Nathan Johnson, PhD, DLM(ASCP)

University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

**Paul Nelson, MS, MLS(ASCP),** University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

This session explores the use of music, powered by AI, to enhance student learning. Students are faced with the challenge of memorizing a lot of information, and many report significant issues retaining information. Students in our clinical biochemistry course were provided with AI-generated songs to reinforce key concepts. The presenters will share student feedback and outcomes.

**LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION:** Intermediate

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## **INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION MADE EASY: BUILDING COLLABORATION EARLY**

**SPEAKERS:** Jennifer Brown, PhD, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>, University of Minnesota

**Mauri Brueggeman, MS, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>,** Aspirus Health

Struggling with how to include interprofessional education (IPE) in your already full program? This session will highlight the value of IPE, offer ready-to-use IPE activities you can easily integrate into your hospital-based or university-based program, and workshop ideas with attendees.

**LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION:** Basic

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## **INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION: NO SIMULATORS? NO PROBLEM!**

**SPEAKER:** Lisa Walden, EdD, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>, Ohio Northern University

The presenter will share their experiences in helping design an interprofessional education program at a small, private, undergraduate university. Included in this presentation is a discussion on how meaningful activities were created in the absence of an on-campus medical school and simulation equipment.

**LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION:** Basic

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## **THE LAB MATH CONUNDRUM: INCREASING ENGAGEMENT, IMPROVING ATTITUDES, AND ACTUALLY LEARNING LAB MATH**

**SPEAKERS:** Michelle Markstrom, H(ASCP), Michigan State University

**Angela Wholehan, MS, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>, SBB<sup>CM</sup>,** Michigan State University

For many students, lab math seems too daunting to attempt, much less to solve. In this session, we'll discuss changing how we encourage and engage students in learning and solving lab math problems, while also avoiding the minefield that is open AI.

**LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION:** Basic

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## **MAKING IT STICK: CREATIVE STRATEGIES FOR TEACHING CLINICAL CHEMISTRY**

**SPEAKER:** Lacy Moss, PhD, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>, University of Utah

Make clinical chemistry (and other tough topics) stick! This lively session will share creative tools—like memory aids, custom visuals, games, study strategies, and review techniques—to boost student engagement and retention. While focused on clinical chemistry, these strategies will work across all courses. Come for the ideas, stay for the fun!

**LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION:** Basic

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## **PRECEPTOR SUPPORT PROGRAM: A JOURNEY FROM CONCEPT TO REALITY**

**SPEAKERS:** Sachiko Imbuldeniya, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>

The George Washington University

**Olga Terekhina, DHSc, MLS(ASCP)**, The George Washington University

A successful clinical experience—for both students and preceptors—depends on strong collaboration between academic programs and clinical partners. To strengthen this relationship, the Biomedical Laboratory Sciences Department developed the Preceptor Support Program (PSP) to enhance communication and support preceptor development.

**LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION:** Intermediate

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## **A REAL APPROACH TO ENGAGE STUDENTS IN LABORATORY MANAGEMENT**

**SPEAKERS:** Patricia Ellinger, MEd, MLS(ASCP)SBB, St. Cloud State University

**Dana Griffin, MBA, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>**, Valparaiso University

**Jeanne Isabel, EdD, SH(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>**, Northern Illinois University

Laboratory students may feel that management topics are not necessary for success in their first position in the laboratory. The presenters will provide several approaches to use in the classroom to engage students to recognize the value of personal and professional core management skills. This session will include real-life scenarios, feedback from recent students, and role-playing.

**LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION:** Intermediate

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## REBUILDING AND ENHANCING PROGRAMMATIC SUSTAINABILITY

**SPEAKERS:** Michele Hope, MHA, MLS(ASCP), University of New Hampshire

Katie Nelson, MBA, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>, University of New Hampshire

Michelle Parent, PhD, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>

Albany College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences

This faculty panel will discuss both the hurdles and opportunities they have encountered and overcome in order to rebuild medical laboratory science programs after losing talented colleagues due to retirement or career change. Emphasis will be placed on strategies promoting programmatic sustainability during times of transition.

**LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION:** Intermediate

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## RETHINKING EDUCATION IN THE AGE OF AI: STRATEGIES FOR EMPOWERED TEACHING

**SPEAKER:** Amanda Seaton, MS, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>, Spalding University

Explore how AI is reshaping education. This session examines limits of traditional assignments, the evolving role of educators, and shares three examples of AI integration in a microbiology course. We'll conclude with a collaborative vision to inspire AI adoption. Whether AI-curious or experienced, all educators will find value here.

**LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION:** Intermediate

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## **SHOW AND PLAY: HOW DIAPERS, DOTS, AND DISNEY IMPROVE STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND PERFORMANCE**

**SPEAKERS:** Autumn Bogart, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>

Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center

**Laurianne Mullinax, MS, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>**, Providence Health & Services

How can we connect with today's learners who thrive on memes, gifs, and short videos? Is humor a better approach than traditional long lectures? Join our discussion to share and learn effective ways of engaging future laboratorians.

**LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION:** Basic

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## **SIMULATE TO EDUCATE: TRANSFORMING MLS LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS**

**SPEAKERS:** Shannon Jongeward, PhD, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>

University of North Dakota

**Heather Langerud, MS, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>**, University of North Dakota

**Karen Peterson, MS, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>**, University of North Dakota

**Samantha Peterson, PhD, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>**, University of North Dakota

This session will explore the use of simulation in medical laboratory science (MLS) education including its value in on-campus and distance settings. We'll discuss ways to leverage technology to bridge gaps between theory and practice across various MLS content areas and learning domains. Student feedback will also be included to illustrate the impact of simulation on engagement, skill development, and professional preparation.

**LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION:** Intermediate

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## **TRANSITIONING MENTEES TO MENTORS: PARTNERSHIP WITH A HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM TO PROMOTE AWARENESS OF LABORATORY PROFESSIONS**

**SPEAKER:** Jason Evans, PhD, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>, West Virginia University

This session will share how one program initiated a partnership with a high school-based program to train students to promote and educate their peers about laboratory sciences. During a yearly summer camp, our program provides collegiate-style lectures and hands on laboratory activities to our campers who then carry out these activities at their local middle schools.

**LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION:** Basic

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## **TROUBLESHOOTING STUDENTS: THE ODYSSEY FROM PROBLEM STUDENTS TO PROBLEM SOLVERS**

**SPEAKERS: Robert Hatfield, MS, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>**

University of Tennessee Health Science Center

**Jacen Moore, PhD, MLS(ASCP)**

University of Tennessee Health Science Center

**Thomas (Wes) Williamson, MS, MLS(ASCP)**

University of Tennessee Health Science Center

Students may encounter affective and academic hurdles as they transition from student to professional. This session presents a student-centered approach using meaningful, compassionate conversations aimed at uncovering and removing barriers by using proactive interventions and customized remediation plans that emphasize critical listening, advising techniques, and empathy-driven academic counseling and intervention.

**LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION:** Intermediate

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## **WORKING SMARTER: PRACTICAL AI STRATEGIES FOR TEACHING AND WORKLOAD MANAGEMENT**

**SPEAKER: Sona Kumar, MS, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>**

Louisiana State University at Alexandria

AI doesn't have to be complicated. This session offers a unique, experience-based perspective focused on realistic, hands-on uses of AI tools that are easy to adopt and require minimal technical expertise. With the growing demand to do more with less, this topic is especially relevant to educators seeking sustainable and innovative ways to manage their professional responsibilities.

**LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION:** Intermediate

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## PAIRED SESSIONS

*The following are 30-minute presentations paired in a one-hour session focused on a specific topic, technique, or tool.*

### FOCUS ON LEARNING TOOLS

#### **BEYOND THE TYPE AND SCREEN: STUDENT BLOOD BANKING ACTIVITIES PERFORMED OUTSIDE OF WET LABS**

**SPEAKER:** *Rachelle Barrett, MS, MLS(ASCP)SBB*

Oregon Institute of Technology

We try to teach our future blood bankers critical thinking skills, but sometimes the antibodies we use in wet labs don't read the textbook. This session shares activities students can do outside of wet lab that enhance their understanding and problem-solving skills. Attendees will leave with ideas for offering engaging experiences in their classrooms that have consistent outcomes.

**LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION:** Intermediate

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#### **INTEGRATION OF A SIMULATED ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD**

**SPEAKER:** *Deborah Fox, PhD, MLS(ASCP)*

Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University

This session will review the first-year process of integrating a simulated electronic health record (EHR) across all content areas of the student laboratory as well as within an interdisciplinary simulated learning environment. The development of communication, documentation, and other unique skills will be discussed.

**LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION:** Intermediate

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### FOCUS ON FEEDBACK

#### **DON'T TAKE IT PERSONALLY: EMBRACING CRITICISM FOR PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL GROWTH**

**SPEAKER:** *James Williams, PhD, MLS(AMT), St. Philip's College*

This session seeks to help educators recognize the importance of critical feedback and to embrace it as an agent of growth. Understood in the right context, all criticism, whether constructive or destructive, will offer valuable insight for those who have a growth mindset and high emotional intelligence.

**LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION:** Intermediate

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## STUDENT COURSE FEEDBACK: SUCCESSFUL STRATEGIES FOR INCREASING STUDENT RESPONSE

**SPEAKER:** Jeffrey Clifford, MS, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>, University of Utah

Course feedback from students is a vital tool for identifying areas of improvement for medical laboratory educators and their courses. In this session, approaches to substantially improve student response rates will be presented, as well as examples of course improvements made as a result of this student feedback.

**LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION:** Basic

### FOCUS ON LEARNING ACTIVITIES

## DISCUSSION BOARDS: CREATING CONNECTIVITY AND ENGAGEMENT BETWEEN STUDENTS IN ONLINE EDUCATION

**SPEAKER:** Linsey Donner, PhD, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>

University of Nebraska Medical Center

This session highlights how discussion boards foster engagement and peer learning. By sharing and comparing instrumentation, test methods, and laboratory practices observed during microbiology rotations, students gain insight into the diversity of laboratory operations. Attendees will explore strategies for crafting prompts and facilitating discussions.

**LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION:** Basic

## PROJECT-BASED LEARNING: ASSIGNMENTS THAT OUTLAST THE CLASSROOM

**SPEAKER:** Alyssa Briscoe, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>, St. Philip's College

It's easy for students to get into the habit of memorizing for the test and then dumping once the semester is over. How can instructors create assignments that spark learning after a course is completed? See how the creation of an instructor-guided, student-created, course "Handbook" can give students a tool to use beyond studying for the test.

**LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION:** Basic



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**FOCUS ON AI USES**

**TEACHING IN THE AGE OF AI: KEEPING YOUR STUDENTS FROM OUTSOURCING THEIR BRAIN**

**SPEAKER:** Audrey Folsom, DHSc, MLS(ASCP), Arkansas State University

Many students don't think twice about using AI to lessen their workload and complete their assignments faster, so how do we help them learn in this current environment? This session will cover how to create meaningful assignments that enhance student learning in the age of AI. Examples of how to modify current assignments will also be discussed.

**LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION:** Intermediate

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**PAIRED SESSION TO BE ANNOUNCED.**

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## REGISTRATION RATES

	EARLY BIRD by 12/3/25	REGULAR by 1/21/26	ONSITE/LATE starts 1/22/26
<b>ASCLS Professional and Emeritus Member</b>	in-person <b>\$765</b> virtual <b>\$665</b>	in-person <b>\$825</b> virtual <b>\$725</b>	in-person <b>\$885</b> virtual <b>\$785</b>
<b>ASCLS Developing Professional and Ascending Professional Member</b>	in-person <b>\$695</b> virtual <b>\$595</b>	in-person <b>\$725</b> virtual <b>\$625</b>	in-person <b>\$785</b> virtual <b>\$685</b>
<b>Non-Member</b>	in-person <b>\$965</b> virtual <b>\$865</b>	in-person <b>\$1025</b> virtual <b>\$925</b>	in-person <b>\$1085</b> virtual <b>\$985</b>
<b>Guest</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	in-person <b>\$200</b>

Pre-Conference Workshop: \$110/ASCLS Member;  
\$160/Non-Member.

*\*Should your circumstances change, and you want to change your registration from virtual to in-person, or vice versa, you can modify your registration at any time. Modifications from in-person to virtual attendance made before **January 21, 2026**, will include the registration payment balance refunded. After January 21, no refunds will be issued.*

The member fees listed above are for persons holding current membership in the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS). If you are not currently a member, join online at [ascls.org/join](https://ascls.org/join) or call ASCLS at 301-450-2369.

## REGISTRATION

**In-person CLEC 2026 registration** includes access to all educational sessions, industry partner activities, all educational session recordings for at least 30 days following the event, reception on Thursday, lunch on Friday, and continental breakfast on Friday and Saturday. **Discounted early bird registration fees are only available through December 3, 2025.**

**Virtual CLEC 2026 registration** includes access to all educational sessions, industry partner virtual activities, virtual networking events, and all educational session recordings for at least 30 days following the event. **Discounted early bird registration fees are only available through December 3, 2025.**

The member fees listed above are for persons holding current membership in the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS). If you are not currently a member, join online at [ascls.org/join](https://ascls.org/join) or call ASCLS at 301-450-2369.

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## HOW TO REGISTER

**Online Registration** (Credit Card): Register online at [ascls.org/CLEC](https://ascls.org/CLEC). Click the Registration tab for online registration.

**Register by Check or Purchase Order:** Register online at [ascls.org/CLEC](https://ascls.org/CLEC) and indicate you are paying by invoice. Include the invoice with your check.

**Make checks payable to: ASCLS CLEC.** Payment must accompany your registration invoice for your registration to be processed. If paying by purchase order, please include your purchase order number on the invoice. **NOTE: If payment is not received by January 21, your registration will be cancelled. Invoices generated prior to December 3 will qualify for the early bird registration fee discount.** Invoices generated after this date will be processed at the regular registration rate.

For registration, membership, or other inquiries, contact the ASCLS office at **301-478-6379** or [ascls@ascls.org](mailto:ascls@ascls.org).

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## ACCESSABILITY

If you have a disability and require a reasonable accommodation to fully participate in this event, please **contact ASCLS before December 3, 2025**, by email at [ascls@ascls.org](mailto:ascls@ascls.org) or by telephone at 301-478-6379 to discuss your accessibility needs. Closed captioning will be available on the broadcast of educational sessions.

## CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS

If it becomes necessary for you to cancel your CLEC registration, please **notify ASCLS at [ascls@ascls.org](mailto:ascls@ascls.org) before December 3, 2025**. Your registration fee will be refunded, less a \$75 processing fee. If needed, modifications from in-person to virtual attendance can be made up until January 21 with the balance refunded. If you must cancel after January 21, please find a substitute to send in your place, as no refunds will be issued after this date.

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## CODE OF CONDUCT

When registering for CLEC, attendees agree to adhere to the ASCLS Code of Conduct ([ascls.org/conduct](https://ascls.org/conduct)). This includes making health and safety a priority. COVID and other infectious diseases have the potential to evolve and cause disruptions to normal activities due to personal and public health concerns. ASCLS, first and foremost, has a responsibility to provide safe learning environments for its meeting attendees. As an association of and for healthcare professionals, attendees at our live, face-to-face meetings are expected to exercise sound and ethical professional judgment to protect the health of those around them, which includes proper vaccinations and other measures that limit the spread of infectious diseases like masking and social distancing. Those who are experiencing symptoms should not attend live sessions and should self-quarantine from other attendees.

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## HOTEL AND DESTINATION

Located just nine miles from Seattle's city center, the Hyatt Regency Bellevue is the headquarters hotel for CLEC 2026. Reserve your room by visiting [www.ascls.org/CLEC](https://www.ascls.org/CLEC) and click on the CLEC Accommodations tab for more information.

**Room Rate:** \$205 single/double, \$230 triple, \$255 quad + taxes. Reserve your room by January 13, 2026, to receive the discounted rate. Reservations can be made online at <https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/BELLE/G-CLEC>.

With its small-town charm and big-city convenience, downtown Bellevue, Washington, is a modern oasis with endless activities and cultural attractions. The Hyatt Regency Bellevue is connected to The Bellevue Collection via skyway—enjoy access to 200 stores, 50+ restaurants, and plenty of entertainment options including two cinemas, Lucky Strike Bowling and Forum Social House Golf. Hotel visitors will also enjoy an indoor heated pool and access to natural beauty and scenery.



P.O. Box 92

Dundee, MI 48131



**42<sup>nd</sup> Annual  
Clinical Laboratory  
Educators Conference**

**February 5-7, 2026**

**[ascls.org/clec](https://ascls.org/clec)**

***In-Person and Virtual  
Registration Options  
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