



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.

Meet Heather Santaniello, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, MB(ASCP) from Kansas City, Kansas.

Heather is the medical laboratory scientist at Lawrence Memorial Hospital in Kansas City.

Heather has held many roles at the state and regional level, including ASCLS-Kansas chair of public relations from 2021 to 2025, president-elect from 2022 to 2024, president from 2024 to 2025, and Political Action Committee Board of Trustees for Region VI from 2021 to 2022. She has also served on several national committees, including the ASCLS Bioterrorism Preparedness Position Paper Task Force and the ASCLS Political Action Committee chair from 2022 to 2024.



Heather says that her dedication to improving patient care, fostering professional growth, and advocating for the importance of the laboratory field is what keeps her motivated within the laboratory and ASCLS. "It's about community and collaboration; sharing knowledge, supporting peers, and driving progress within the laboratory." She also said that her motivation stems from her passion for the laboratory field and a desire to contribute to better outcomes. "I find that it is also an opportunity to mentor upcoming professionals, influence policies, and celebrate the vital work we do behind the scenes."

When asked about her most memorable achievement within ASCLS, Heather said, "I cherish all of my accomplishments within ASCLS," but her proudest was creating a career tri-fold brochure for clinical laboratory sciences and distributing it to area high schools, community colleges, and numerous HOSA events in Kansas.

Outside of ASCLS, Heather is proud to have received the KU Health System Good Catch award in 2023. "By understanding the importance of speaking up and getting departments with better expertise involved as soon as possible when faced with

critical lab values on a baby less than a week old, I, along with another employee, was able to contribute to saving his life by preventing the wrong product from being given." Saving lives is truly at the heart of laboratory medicine.

Heather's nominator notes that "Heather has been a great mentor both within the lab and within the ASCLS-KS chapter. She shares her research from her Doctor of Clinical Laboratory Science (DCLS) program, encourages others within the state to take part in ASCLS events as a lab, and is always willing to help out. She has also gone out of her way to boost involvement in the Kansas ASCLS chapter and personally encourages others to take positions of leadership and continue seeking personal development opportunities. Heather is a great asset to her lab and to ASCLS-Kansas and absolutely deserves to be recognized!" We can all agree with that!

Congratulations, Heather!