



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 Stephanie Souza, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, SBB(ASCP) from Phoenix, Arizona.

Stephanie is currently working as a Field Application Escalation Support Specialist for Grifols Diagnostic Solutions, Inc. in Emeryville, California. She is responsible for the harmonization of assay-related field applications for the company's immunohematology instrumentation and software, in use within the US. As part of her role, Stephanie also provides education for both internal staff and external customers by means of developing training materials, providing on and off-site training sessions, hosting teleconferences and webinars, as well as writing and reviewing technical documentation. Additionally, she spends the remaining hours of her work week building relationships with external manufacturers and internal departments, assisting field staff with investigations, and mentoring new employees.



"My motivation for being involved with ASCLS has always been about quality: Quality of skills for the student learning about laboratory science, Quality of life for those medical laboratory professionals tirelessly working the bench, and quality of care for the patients at the receiving end of our services. Without someone to continue the work of advancing and promoting the field of laboratory science, this quality declines. It is my purpose to prevent this through the work of our organization." -Stephanie.

As a member of ASCLS, Stephanie has volunteered her time to work on her mission of improving quality. She has been actively involved in her region X society as well as the Arizona/Nevada State society where she is currently the president. Along with her leadership roles, Stephanie has given several lectures and written papers for publication on a variety of topics. She has also provided a voice to the laboratory profession by being an attendee at the National Legislative Symposium.

When asked what her favorite personal accomplishment has been within ASCLS, Stephanie responded with: "I halted and reversed the direction the AZ/NV State Society was going. Each year we had fewer and fewer members, concomitantly

reducing the number of individuals available and interested in participating in BOD activities and positions. For the first time in my tenure with ASCLS, the AZ/NV BOD has successfully transitioned a student member into a FYP/NPNMF, and then into a Board Member at large. Additionally, for the first time in my tenure, the AZ/NV BOD has a current and incoming President. I feel very proud to have been able to support this, despite diminishing resources.”

Stephanie came highly recommended for the Voices Under 40 Award by her peers. One of her nominators had this to say. “From that first encounter, I could tell Stephanie was a laboratory professional who was passionate about the medical laboratory profession and truly wanted to be a part of defining its destiny. In the years following her first Leg Day, I’ve watched her rise up and take on responsibilities in her local society. She has served in committees and eventually became ASCLS-AND President.”

Outside of ASCLS, Stephanie’s proudest achievement has been achieving her ASCP SBB certification while working full time as a single mother. She mentioned, “Finding the balance of family, work, and school was incredibly difficult, but also incredibly rewarding. Without this accomplishment, the life and career I have now would not have been possible.”