

## American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science

Hello Fellow ASCLS Student Members,

My name is Katie Grosz, and I am the current ASCLS Student Forum Secretary. As a current new graduate and First Year Professional Member, I want to tell you the importance, as well as the benefits to you, of becoming a First Year Professional Member of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science.

I just recently became a First Year Professional Member in August, and like you, I was curious about how being a member of ASCLS would benefit me. In the following few paragraphs, I will tell you some of the reasons why I chose to continue my membership.

One of the most important reasons for my decision is the opportunity ASCLS offers related to education. My first priority after I graduated was passing my boards. I can't tell you how stressed out I felt. As a member of ASCLS, I was able to purchase the Board of Certification study book for a discounted price, which was really nice considering the fact that I was just a college student and didn't have any excess funds. Additionally, ASCLS offers tons of continuing education and formal recognition of it via Professional Acknowledgment for Continuing Education, or P.A.C.E. S. ASCLS offers educational events, webcasts, CDs, and online courses that provide continuing education credits on a variety of different interesting topics. This will help immensely when it comes to recertification or licensure renewal.

**ASCLS** also helps to keep clinical laboratory professionals informed about topics affecting our profession. Members receive *Clinical Laboratory Science*, an award winning journal, and the *ASCLS Today* newsletter, which focus on updates concerning research, education, government actions, and membership. In addition, the ASCLS website is also a forum for information. There are all sorts of links that can help us to gain knowledge on a variety of topics including: certification, personnel licensure, preparing your resume, job postings, how to get involved, and so much more.

Another vital element of being a part of this organization is the opportunity to network. I cannot even begin to tell you how many different people I've met in the past year. Although we may work in different areas of the country and in different disciplines, you would be amazed at how many of the same issues affect the profession as a whole. ASCLS can really make a difference by advocating for the regulatory, legislative, professional, and educational issues that impact our profession. In addition to making a difference in our profession, networking opens up many opportunities for professional growth and career development.



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I hope that I have shown you multiple reasons why it is so beneficial for you to become a First Year Professional Member after graduation. ASCLS is a great organization that allows everyone to have a voice in this profession. It offers members endless possibilities for advancement, education, and networking.

Wishing you the best!

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