



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 Nicole Buza, BS, MLS(ASCP)^{CM} from Madison, Wisconsin.

Nicole is currently working in the blood bank at a large level 1 trauma University hospital that also has several specialties including a highly active transplant program. She works on the bench where she gets to do a wide range of testing and has been a part of some special projects, including an EMR validation. Nicole is also in charge of the market withdrawal program, as well as the transfusion reaction data collection and follow-up team. She will soon be stepping into a new role, Senior Medical Laboratory Scientist – Education Coordinator. In this role, Nicole will be teaching MLT and MLS students, as well as the pathology and anesthesiology residents about blood banking.



"I believe that a profession's voice and visibility is only as strong as its professional society. I want our profession to be heard and make an impact in healthcare-that is why I choose to stay actively involved in ASCLS." Over the past few years, Nicole has been instrumental in promoting the laboratory profession through ASCLS. On the national level she has served as the ASCLS Student Forum Vice Chair and the Phlebotomy Scientific Assembly Chair. In her home state of Wisconsin, Nicole has held several positions and is currently the state society president. "It takes all of us working together to make change happen for the betterment of our profession, and I hope that more people will see the value in a membership with ASCLS." -Nicole

When asked what her favorite personal accomplishment has been within ASCLS, Nicole responded with, "Working as the Phlebotomy Scientific Assembly Chair to make the requests of the SA members heard." Through the requests of SA members, more educational opportunities are being brought forth as well as the

possibility of a new membership category that is being discussed by the membership committee.

Nicole was highly recommended for the Voices Under 40 Award by her peers. Here is what one of her nominators had to say. "It is hard to put into words the impact Niki has had on ASCLS-Wisconsin and on ASCLS as a whole. Niki has held many leadership roles within the state, region, and at the national level making her an asset to the organization. She is currently the ASCLS-WI president where she has started many great initiatives. A sustainability taskforce was created during her presidency to really dive into how to make the state financially successful for years to come. Additionally, she has organized a push to get all the ASCLS-WI SOP updated before the bylaws need to be updated as stipulated by the national organization. Niki wants to assure that the state is ready to take on that challenge in the coming year by ensuring the state is as up to date as possible. To make her feats even more impressive, Niki managed her to uphold all her presidential duties while bringing a beautiful baby girl into the world during the middle of her term. It has been an inspiration to watch her fulfil all her obligations successfully, be a graduate student, and being a new mother, while making it all look so easy."

When asked about her greatest achievement outside of ASCLS, Nicole responded with , "Currently I am working full time as a blood banker, serving ASCLS-WI as the president of the society, and working on my Master of Science degree in Medical Laboratory Science all while raising my six month old daughter with my husband; with all of this happening I'm managing to stay engaged in all of these areas (and more or less sane 😊) – I would say that is my proudest achievement to date!"