



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 Kristen Croom, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, MB(ASCP) from Mililani Hawaii.

Kristen is currently the Director of Pathology, Clinical Laboratory, and Molecular Services at Queen's Medical Center in Honolulu, Hawaii. She oversees three anatomic pathology laboratories, one clinical laboratory, and provides consultation services for the largest clinical molecular diagnostic laboratory in the state. Kristen is responsible for over 180 employees. Her duties include working with managers to ensure smooth operations of each laboratory, overseeing projects, and being the laboratory representative at meetings.



"I'm passionate about being a laboratorian and helping our patients," Kristen mentions in her personal statement. Today Kristen is serving ASCLS as the Region X Director. Kristen continues to be active in ASCLS because she believes that clinical laboratorians are an essential part of the healthcare team and provide those results needed to help patients across the country and the world. ASCLS is the primary voice for all laboratorians. Her involvement in ASCLS helps keep the voice alive and ensure that all laboratorians are represented.

When asked what her favorite personal accomplishment has been within ASCLS, Kristen responded with, "Convincing the ASCLS-HI board that we needed to provide other opportunities for sessions outside of our annual spring meeting. I was a newly elected president elect in 2014. I was ambitious and wanted to do more within our state. We had previously focused on our annual spring meeting, I felt

that we needed to do more to reach our laboratorians. I worked with the board to plan and execute other activities including a brewery tour and an ASCLS on the Road event. The road event included ASCLS board members going to different laboratories and provided a one hour continuing education event. These were recorded sessions from the previous national meeting that were shown in the lab. These events were well attended and allowed the board to interact with all laboratorians around the state. Since my presidency ASCLS-HI has continued to do multiple events throughout the year and our annual meeting continues to be a successful event."

Kristen was highly recommended for this award by her peers. One of her nominators has this to say, "Kristen has been a leader and inspiration to many new members of the ASCLS HI society. With her encouragement and support she is responsible for recruiting one new member who is currently serving on our board and also attended the 2018 national meeting as a new professional. Another new member recruited by Kristen will be active as this year's Lab Week organizer. In these times of diminishing membership, Kristen has been our shining beacon for attracting new members."

Outside of ASCLS, Kristen's greatest achievement is being accepted by The Mayo Clinic for her clinical preceptorship in her Master of Science in Molecular Pathology program from Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. Kristen said, "I believe that this position has provided an opportunity and stepping stone for all my positions since that time. I was incredibly nervous about moving across the country for two months without family and friends to complete this preceptorship. I made this decision because I knew this was a unique opportunity to learn clinical genetic testing from the experts in the field and learn how to manage a laboratory."