



# VOLUSION...ASCLS SD

Grassroots explosion of **VOICE**, **VALUE**, **VISION**  
Official publication of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science ~ South Dakota

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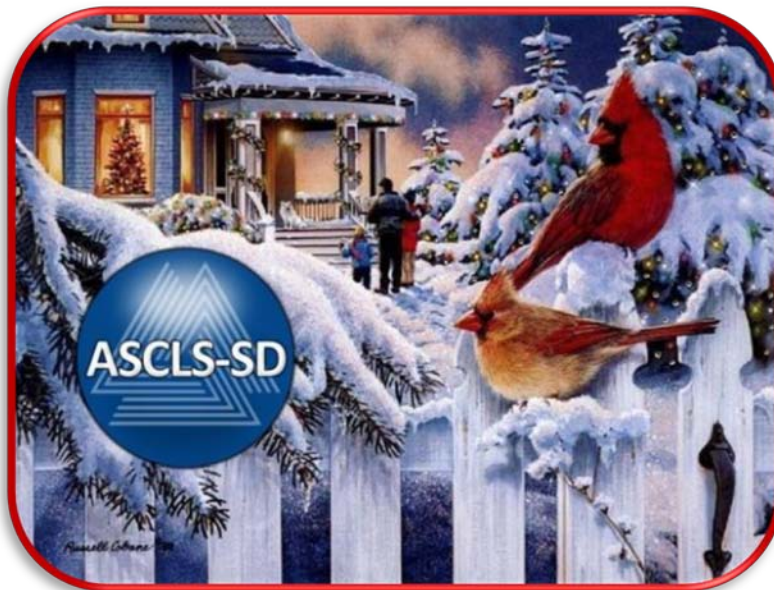
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All ASCLS SD members are invited to submit articles of interest to the co-editors for publication in future issues.



## ASCLS Christmas Delights

At Christmas time we're thankful for  
the blessings we're given every day,  
For our ASCLS family, friends and more  
whether close to us or far away.

For eager students and new professionals too,  
You're the future shining stars so bright,  
Our professional members have a wiser point of view,  
Giving our society its vision, value and true professional might.

For our committees and task forces whose work never ends,  
Keeping our mission, beliefs and core values in view  
To government and other professions, a message it sends,  
This is truly what ASCLS and ASCLS-SD mean for you!

The list of reasons ASCLS fills us with pride  
would easily fill a great big book.  
ASCLS delights reach far and wide,  
At home, regional and national, truly everywhere we look!

May the beauty of the season fill your hearts today  
With professional peace, joy and love all year through.  
Know that you are recognized at Christmas and every day  
for your ASCLS commitment and the true professional in you.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year Wishes  
From Your ASCLS-SD Board of Directors



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**President's Message: The Bells of ASCLS**

By: Lezlee Koch, ASCLS-SD President 2011-12



Christmas bells are ringing, ding dong, ding dong, Christmas bells are ringing..... Just like Christmas bells, we must let our professional voices ring out for ASCLS, for our profession, for our members, and for what we know is right to assure positive patient outcomes in health care.

Medical laboratory professionals have a tendency to shy away from political arenas and areas of conflict as they pursue the science of their practice. Many times our professionals wait for others to 'carry the torch' and 'take the stand' for us knowing that someone surely will. There have been too many times that while we waited for someone to take action, a booming arm of government or a federal regulatory agency stepped in and made regulations that do not make sense, may negatively impact our profession and surely do not place the patient's best interest at heart. If we truly care about the patients we serve and truly care about our profession, we must unite in ASCLS and let our voices, values and visions ring out loud and clear.

As Healthcare Reform unfolds, we must be diligent about keeping informed and we must do whatever it takes to support our professional organization because ASCLS is there for us and continues to work very hard to keep us updated on all potential impacts to our profession. There are so many laboratory professionals that do not believe 'government affairs' is an important aspect of a laboratory professional organization. Without a focus on government affairs our profession can be easily rolled over and swept under the carpet of Capitol Hill. As medical laboratory professionals, we are competing with the loud voices of the American Hospital Association, American Medical Association and other large non-laboratory organizations. To survive and thrive we must have a place at the decision tables and we can only do that if our government affairs focus is strong and active.

How can you help? Let your ASCLS-SD bells ring out! Get involved in ASCLS-SD. Volunteer to serve on committees and task forces. Provide feedback when requested. Stay informed on governmental and professional issues. Contact our congressional leaders if a grassroots request for action is sent out by ASCLS. Communicate your professional concerns or suggestions to any one of our Board of Directors. Your voice and your involvement is important..... Let them ring out in 2012!



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**Your Premiere  
Websites!  
Visit Them Often!**



**ASCLS-SD**

[www.ascls-sd.org](http://www.ascls-sd.org)



**ASCLS Region V**

[www.ascls-sd.org/asclsregionv](http://www.ascls-sd.org/asclsregionv)



**ASCLS Region V  
Fall Symposium**

[www.ascls-sd.org/region-v-meeting](http://www.ascls-sd.org/region-v-meeting)



**ASCLS**

[www.ascls.org](http://www.ascls.org)



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Salutes It's  
Premier Industry  
Sponsors!**

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[www.mayomedicallaboratories.com](http://www.mayomedicallaboratories.com)



 **UNIVERSITY OF  
SOUTH DAKOTA**  
SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES  
[www.usd.edu/medlab](http://www.usd.edu/medlab)



## **Region V Director's Message: ASCLS Region V Symposium Or The Value of Social Networking**

By: Deb Rodahl, ASCLS Region V Director

Local, State, Regional, and National laboratory meetings provide laboratory professionals many opportunities to learn from each other – **Social Networking** at its finest. Why network?? Too many times I am hearing about our newer laboratory professionals who intend to get all of their mandated CEU's via the internet. Certainly the internet offers a plethora of continuing education opportunities. The Internet also offers a variety of options for Social Networking with Facebook, Twitter, Foursquare, LinkedIn, etc. Gee – with all this available from the comfort of your home – why bother to go to face-to-face meetings?

Social Networking was founded on the premise of keeping up with your friends and family – people you *already know*. The value of professional networking is getting to know people in your profession!! I find that I get to know people much better in person than I would via computer or telephone. How many times at work do you find that getting to know people outside of the lab makes problem solving much easier. When I was scouting out options to complete my MBA degree I considered online options as well as classroom options and some programs offered the combination of the two. I knew that for me, I would get more value out of the education if I could interact with my classmates and learn from them as much as I learn from the teachers. This proved to be very true. My MBA classmates were working professionals who shared their experiences as part of the class discussions. I know that I got as much (if not more) value in my “networking” in person as I did from the books we read or the lectures we listened to. Attending “live” continuing education opportunities will double your learning potential with the **live** interactions with the other attendees.



The 2011 Region V Symposium was held in Fargo, ND on October 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. The meeting was well attended with more than 90 attendees each day. The program with 11 sessions was first class with Keynote sessions presented by ASCLS President Cathy Otto and ASCLS Executive Vice President, Elissa Passiment. Topics ranged from Patient Safety, to Health Care Reform, to technical topics on “Bad Bugs”, “A1C Testing”, or “Blood Management”. There were general sessions, technical sessions, and management sessions to cover the interests of all attendees. Social networking opportunities were provided throughout the meeting, however Thursday evening we “networked” with the various vendors in the exhibit hall. With 25 exhibitors there were many opportunities to see what is new as well as to interact with vendors and peers over the appetizers or social beverage or your choice! Lots of door prizes made for a fun evening. The planning committee is to be congratulated for hosting a great meeting. Special Thanks go to the meeting chairs Bernie Reddy and Tammy Svatos from South Dakota.



The 2012 Region V Symposium will be held in Alexandria, MN at the Arrowwood Resort and Conference Center. This move will provide an opportunity to hold our meeting in a more



**Recruit A  
New  
Member!**

**Be An ASCLS Star!**

Every clinical laboratorian deserves the professional benefits of **ASCLS!**

- ★ Award winning publications
- ★ Members-only discounts for continuing education, resources, references and tools
- ★ Professional & Regulatory Advocacy
- ★ Grassroots benefits at the local, state, and regional levels
- ★ An instant professional family of thousands
- ★ Cutting edge resources and updates
- ★ Leadership development
- ★ Discounted services - credit cards, hotels, insurance programs and more

Share **ASCLS's VOICE, VALUE & VISION** with your professional friends and colleagues! We all benefit when ASCLS grows! The more members we have in South Dakota, the stronger our professional voice is here at home. Recruitment tips & tools can be found at:

<http://www.ascls.org>  
<http://www.ascls-sd.org/>

**Join Online at:**

<https://ascls.site-ym.com/?page=Join>



resort-like setting. The Arrowwood offers a fantastic indoor water park, spa facilities, 18-hole golf course, mini-golf, horse-back riding, or opportunities to sit around a campfire or simply relax in their lounge. Come for the meeting, stay for the fun (Social Networking!)



*It is truly an honor to represent Region V in ASCLS. I enjoy hearing from our members (or non-members). I can be reached at [drodahl@earthlink.net](mailto:drodahl@earthlink.net) (651)779.8906*



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### **Membership Update: Strategic Actions - Let Us Hear From You!**

By: Shirley Heber, ASCLS-SD 2nd Vice President 2011-12

The membership committee has been busy working on strategic action plans for the next three years. Committee chair Mona Gleysteen and committee members Deb Pravecek, Robert Jenson, Stephanie Eckstrom, Richard Kipena, Lori Murray and Becky Davis have developed a focused and energetic plan designed to encourage membership as well as to enhance the membership experience for current and future ASCLS members.

The primary membership goal for 2011-2014 is to "Develop programs and procedures to address membership recruitment and retention."

Initial charges defined by the committee are:

- ▲ Review current Membership SOPs. Revise and/or develop new SOPs to establish a viable Membership recruitment and retention program.
- ▲ Recommend and implement (as approved) a formalized recruitment program for Fall meeting and Spring (March-June) recruitment cycle.
- ▲ Recommend and implement (as approved) a formalized Student to FYP retention program
- ▲ Review and recommend revision to member benefits/rewards

We need to hear from you, our members. If you have ideas, suggestions, recommendations, or concerns regarding membership, please contact one of the committee members or any one of the Board of Directors. ASCLS-SD is a great professional society for laboratory professionals; we want to make it even better! Share those great ideas and help us grow the membership in 2012!



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## EVENTS



## CALENDAR

### ASCLS CLEC 2012

February 23-25  
Salt Lake City UT  
[www.ascls.org/?page=CLEC](http://www.ascls.org/?page=CLEC)



### 2012 Legislative Symposium

March 19-20  
Washington, DC  
[www.ascls.org/?page=Leg\\_Day](http://www.ascls.org/?page=Leg_Day)



### ASCLS-SD 1-Day Spring Symposium & Annual Meeting

April 13, 2012  
Brookings SD  
[www.ascls-sd.org/id4.html](http://www.ascls-sd.org/id4.html)



### 2012 ASCLS Annual Meeting

July 17-21 Los Angeles  
[www.ascls.org/?page=Annual Meeting](http://www.ascls.org/?page=AnnualMeeting)



### ASCLS Region V Fall Symposium

October 11-12, 2012  
[www.ascls-sd.org/region-v-meeting](http://www.ascls-sd.org/region-v-meeting)



### ASCLS-SD & CLMA 2012 Fall Collaborative Conference

November 8-9, 2012  
Aberdeen SD  
[www.ascls-sd.org/id71.html](http://www.ascls-sd.org/id71.html)



## 2011 ASCLS-SD/CLMA Fall Collaborative Conference - Huge Success

By: Patrick Bezenek and Tanya Crockett, ASCLS-SD Meeting Leaders

November 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> the American Society of Clinical Laboratory Science-South Dakota (ASCLS-SD) and the Clinical Laboratory Management Association-Siouxland (CLMA) hosted the Fall Collaborative Conference at the Ramada Inn in Mitchell. Experts from many different backgrounds shared their knowledge with approximately 135 laboratory professionals. The event provided educational opportunities covering a broad range of technical and regulatory topics. In an effort to provide attendees and vendors with more time to connect, Vendor exhibits were held on the afternoon of the 3<sup>rd</sup>. This is a change from the traditional evening vendor exhibit hours. Approximately 33 vendors attended the show along with two rolling exhibits in the parking lot. Overall, the feedback from attendees and vendors regarding the new exhibit time was very positive. It was a great venue for laboratory professionals to review new technology and products coming into the laboratory market.

ASCLS-SD sponsored the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual ASCLS-SD Charity Fundraiser "Help the Hungry in Mitchell" during the event. The fund raiser was a great success for a great cause! It resulted in the collection of 236 pounds of food for the hungry. Major Linda Jones of the Salvation Army was presented with 176 pounds of food and 60 pounds of food was provided to the Kingsbury County Food Pantry as a result of the fundraiser. This was an event that we all can be proud being part of!

Supporting our future Laboratory Professionals of South Dakota is another cause that is of the highest priority. This year the ASCLS-SD Student/New Professional Task Force organized a scholarship fundraising event at the meeting with the outcome being used to fund scholarships for South Dakota MLS and MLT students.

A huge thank you must be given to all of those who worked so hard to make this year's Fall Collaborative such a great success. Without the dedication of Laboratory Professionals, the profession would not be where it is today. More importantly the profession would not be in a position to get to where we are going tomorrow! THANK YOU!

### Meeting Kodak Moments



Above:

*Fantastic Student Turnout... We Salute Our Future Shining Stars!*

Right:

*Salvation Army Food Drive Presentation!*



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**ASCLS-SD  
Proudly  
Recognizes  
It's New  
Members!**



**Ashley Bush**  
Watertown

**Caleb Cooke**  
Yankton

**Rachel Gervais**  
Brandon

**William Grefe**  
Brookings

**Cory  
Gunderson**  
Volga

**Kayla Holscher**  
Twin Brooks

**Amanda  
Kronberg**  
Vermillion

**Karen Kucker**  
Watertown

**Todd  
Mickalowski**  
Sioux Falls

**Jessie Paris**  
Sturgis

**Andrew Rueb**  
Brookings

**Glen San Juan**  
Brookings  
(continued next page)

## **Laboratory Administration Scientific Assembly: Have ICD-10 Codes Reached Your Radar Yet?**

By: Warren Erickson, ASCLS-SD Laboratory Administration Scientific Assembly Chair 2011-12

By the year 2013 the ICD-9 code set will be replaced. The ICD-9 code set is over 30 years old and has become outdated relative to today's treatment, reporting and payment processes. It does not reflect advances in medical technology and knowledge. The new ICD-10 code set reflects advances in medicine and uses current medical terminology. The expanded code format allows for greater detail for more specific information about the diagnosis. The ICD-10 code set will have more flexibility for expansion and new technologies.



We all are accustomed to using ICD-9 codes to code the patient diagnosis for billing laboratory testing. This will be a significant change in coding from the ICD-9 codes to the ICD-10 codes. October 1, 2013 will be the compliance deadline. Is this a major change? The answer is yes. The current ICD-9 CM codes are 3-5 digits and number just over 14,000 codes. The ICD-10 CM codes are 3-7 characters in length and number around 68,000. The 4,000 3-5 digit ICD-9 CM procedure codes will transition into ICD-10 PSC procedure codes which are 7 alphanumeric characters and total around 87,000 codes. On the positive side the new codes will be a much more robust and dynamic coding system. On the down side, there is a significant learning curve and ramping up process to implement the new code system.

ICD-10 CM codes are the diagnostic code set that replaces ICD-9 CM volumes 1 and 2. The ICD-10 CM will be used to report diagnosis in all clinical settings. ICD-10 PCS is the procedure code set that will be replacing ICD-9 CM volume 3. ICD-10 PCS will be used to report hospital inpatient procedures only. The current procedure codes CPT and HCPCS will continue to be used in the outpatient and physician office settings.

The new codes have more characters, are more specific and the sheer increase in the number of codes will have a huge impact on the health care industry. It will require significant training and software upgrades. Before we can move to the ICD-10 codes, the health care community must start using the new version of HIPAA transaction standards known as 5010 by January 1, 2012 with the current ICD-9 code system. The current HIPAA transaction standards 4010 do not accommodate the new ICD-10 code system. Once this change is complete the ICD-10 codes can be implemented in 2013.

It is early in the process but this might be a good time to reflect on how coding is performed in your lab.

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## Chelsie Schrupp

Watertown

## Jamie Stoffel

Sioux Falls

## Mike Whisler

Sioux Falls



**"Wishing You  
A Wondrous  
&  
Professional  
Journey In  
ASCLS!"**



## What's Hot or Not!

### ▲ 2012 Medicare Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule - has now been published

- Payment rates for clinical laboratory tests on the Medicare Part B fee schedule will increase 0.65 percent as of Jan. 1, 2012, welcome news after a cut of 1.75 percent in 2011 and

## Phlebotomy/Point of Care Scientific Assembly: Customer Satisfaction at A Touch of a Button

By: Sheila Rezac, ASCLS-SD Phlebotomy/POC Scientific Assembly Chair 2011-12

Avera McKennan Regional Laboratory is always looking at ways to capture patient input on their service experience. Laboratory service satisfaction has been previously captured utilizing various types of outpatient surveys. The issue with many of these surveys is the fact that results were not available in "real" time, with some vendors reported results several months after the service and results were sometimes impacted by other services the patient received on the same day. Both of these issues previously made it difficult sometimes to determine true areas for possible laboratory improvement.

★ WE STRIVE FOR FIVE! ★



Leo Serrano, Avera McKennan Laboratory Administrative Director, was asked to fill out a quick 5 question survey after visiting a bank in Europe. The survey was actually a hand-held electronic questionnaire asking 5 questions with a rating system of 1-5. Leo was impressed with this little device and found out who manufactured it. After returning to the United States, Leo decided to trial hand-held devices in all of Avera McKennan Regional Laboratory's Patient Service Centers.

A patient completes the survey right after the laboratory provides their services. The devices are wireless and satisfaction information is automatically transmitted to the vendor. These devices come from a company out of Dallas, Texas called Customer Feedback Systems (CFS). Avera McKennan is not the first healthcare facility to use these devices; other facilities are turning to these devices because of the quick feedback. With the CFS system, a facility is able to ask the patient 5 questions regarding 'their laboratory experience' and can be updated as needed to be specific for the individual facility or the area they wish to assess. Currently, our laboratory assesses the following:

1. Service met expectations
2. Treated with care and compassion
3. Was wait time acceptable
4. Overall comfort (facilities, people, service)
5. How likely are you to return to us for service or recommend our facility

Each Monday, an electronic summary report is sent for each of the Patient Service Centers from the preceding week. This summary provides the number of patients completing the survey at each location and a grading for each of the questions during that week. Included in this summary, is a breakdown by day of how patients rated their service. This allows managers or supervisors to review daily scores, enhancing accountability for the employees working at the various locations. We also monitor the percent of patients taking the survey to assure the survey information is valid. All reports are sent to staff so they can also see how their services are perceived.

Along with these devices, pre-stamped cards are also available for patients to fill out. We have been extremely pleased with this new customer satisfaction assessment system and have heard very positive comments from our customers. One customer stated, "Patient Satisfaction at the Touch of a Button"!!

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a 1.9 cut in 2010. The last increase was in 2009 (4.5 percent) following an update freeze from 2004 to 2008.

- The fee increase for calendar year 2012 is based on the revised update formula enacted in the health care reform law. It is calculated using the consumer price index minus a productivity adjustment and an additional 1.75 percent reduction

### **2012 Molecular Pathology Procedure Codes**

As of Jan. 1, 2012, there will be an additional 101 molecular codes! CMS is asking labs to submit Medicare claims for these molecular pathology procedures that “reflect both the existing CPT stacked test codes that are required for payment and the new, single CPT test code that would be used for payment purposes if the new CPT test codes were active.

For additional information refer to the CMS website:  
[www.cms.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R2365CP.pdf](http://www.cms.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R2365CP.pdf)

### **Annual Physician Compliance Notices**

Laboratories are strongly encouraged to continue distributing annual physician notices. Despite the lack of attention to this OIG guideline in the past several years, annual compliance program

## **Industry Scientific Assembly: Direct Access Testing (DAT)**

By: Patrick Bezenek, ASCLS-SD Industry Scientific Assembly Chair 2011-12

Being squeezed firmly in the grip of reduced fee schedules and the charge to do more with less, many Laboratory Administrators are beginning to think outside the box. Physics implies that for every action there is an opposite and equal reaction. Laboratory Administrators have come to know the financial implications of this principle all too well. As reimbursement for clinical laboratory tests is moving in one direction, the demand for quality laboratory testing is moving in the other. This may remind many of us of the teeter-totter that was present on the grammar school playground. Speaking from personal experience, I find the reimbursement scenario just as frightening as I found the teeter-totter, but that’s a story for another day!

A revenue stream that has traditionally been avoided is now taking center stage and is beginning to look pretty attractive; this is the Direct Access Testing (DAT) market. DAT can be described as a fundamental cornerstone of health care reform. It puts the patient in a position of control over his/her own wellness and disease prevention. DAT allows patients to have laboratory testing performed without the need for a physician order; a result is given directly to the patient and is typically handled as a cash business. The cash revenue stream associated with DAT is more efficient as it does not require coding or submission to insurance or Medicare. This results in a better margin on the testing being performed. DAT could assist laboratories with the task of moving the financial teeter-totter in the right direction. Providing patients with information on how to interpret results and directing them to their physician with abnormal results is essential in any DAT program.

Many companies are contracting with DAT programs in an effort to promote healthy living to their employees. This is arguably a direct result of the rising cost of providing health insurance. Healthy employees are typically more productive, have less absenteeism, and most importantly, cheaper to insure. Many independent companies are actively marketing DAT programs and doing so with a healthy bottom line. I am not advocating that all healthcare facilities scramble to develop a DAT program, but as revenues shrink and costs rise, it may be worth exploring.



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## **ASCLS-SD Strategic Initiatives: Task Force Updates**

ASCLS-SD continues its efforts to enhance professional recognition and benefits for its members through work that is being done by our established Task Forces. Below are the update reports from our Promotion of the Profession and Student/New Professional Task Forces.



### **Student & New Professional Task Force Update**

By: Kay Rasmussen, ASCLS-SD Board Member-at-Large & Task Force Co-Chair

Members of the task force are Stephanie Bonertz, Richard Kipena, Renee Rydell, Jennifer Bannwarth, Sarah Leader, Tracy Roth, Cole Weaver, and Kay Rasmussen. The focus of our group is to identify ways ASCLS-SD can meet the needs and interests of new professionals and students.

The first project undertaken by the group was that of fundraising for student scholarships. The continued offering of scholarships is one way we can demonstrate how much we value

components remain a critical part of any effective compliance program. Although CMS has yet to finalize any rules concerning mandatory compliance programs, leading compliance resources feel it is safe to assume that annual physician notices, or similar disclosures, will be included in the core elements of such programs.



### **ASCLS-SD Charity Fundraiser - Salvation Army Food Drive**



***A sincere thank you to  
the generous  
donations from the  
facilities below!***

SDSU MLS Program:  
11.8 lbs

Prairie Lakes: 71.4 lbs.

Mitchell Tech Institute:  
1.8 lbs + \$10

Lake Area Tech Institute:  
12.6 lbs

Avera Queen of Peace:  
16 lbs. + \$5

Avera De Smet Memorial  
Hospital: 60.9 lbs. + \$100

Avera Aberdeen Family  
Physicians: 3.4 lbs.

Avera McKennan  
Laboratory: 105.2 lbs.

USD MLS Program:  
14.8 lbs.

laboratory students in our state. Our initial fundraiser, a month-long Avon sales event, was introduced at the fall conference in Mitchell. Avon will give back 30% of the November sales to the ASCLS-SD student scholarship fund. We will continue to pursue different opportunities for all members to help support our student scholarships. So, stay tuned...

The next task we will be focusing on is determining what professional benefits our ASCLS-SD organization can provide for our newer members. We will be evaluating what resources and information can be posted on our state website in order to keep all members informed. One of the items we hope to develop is a posting of continuing education opportunities. Continuing education has become a true matter of importance (cost and topic selection) to younger members. The idea of looking for businesses that offer "preferred discounts" for ASCLS-SD members will also be explored.

And, last but not least, our group wants to look at the types of activities/offerings that would be of benefit to our new professionals and students at spring and fall ASCLS-SD state meetings. The idea of having motivational speakers appealed to all members of the committee.

It was wonderful to have so many young professionals at the Mitchell conference; let's keep the momentum going. If you have any thoughts, comments, or suggestions for this task force, please contact any one of the members.

### **Promotion of the Profession Task Force**

By: Deb Pravecek, ASCLS-SD Past President & Task Force Co-Chair

The Promotion of the Profession Task Force was established this fall and given the charges of developing activities to enhance public awareness of our profession and to develop educational materials on issues that have the potential to impact the profession. These educational materials will be written for the public and other healthcare professionals as well as for our own profession. Members of this task force are Deb Pravecek, Bob Jensen, Melissa Saxland, Heather Hall, and Tanya Crockett.

We decided to hold a charitable giving event at the recent Fall Collaborative Conference held in Mitchell, South Dakota. Those registered for that event were challenged to collect non-perishable food items in their facilities and bring them to the meeting. Cash donations were also collected. The donated items were then presented to the Salvation Army Food Bank in Davison County. As an incentive for participating in this food drive, we decided to provide the team who collected the most items on a weight basis. This charity event was a huge success with over 235 pounds of food and \$115 dollars collected. We plan to continue charitable giving events at all future meetings as well. **(For a complete list of facilities participating refer to side column on this page.)**

Other projects we have talked about include developing short articles about the importance of the laboratory in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases. For example, March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. We would then write an article about the role of the laboratory in the diagnosis of colorectal cancer (i.e. FOBT or something similar). We would like to submit the articles to newspapers throughout the state and also share the information with our national and local legislators in order to make them aware of who we are and what we do. We are just getting started, but look to hear more about us as we develop projects to more actively publicize our professions.

If you have any ideas you would like to see implemented, send your suggestion to one of the members of the task force.

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The 2012-13 ASCLS-SD open positions include:

- 🌲 President (1 year term with succession to Past President)
- 🌲 1st Vice President (1 year term with succession to President)
- 🌲 2nd Vice President (1 year term with succession to 1st Vice President)
- 🌲 Board-Member-at-Large (1 position; 2 year term)
- 🌲 New Professional Member-at-Large (1 year term)
- 🌲 Nominations Committee (2 positions; 1 year term)



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**All Year Long!**

## ASCLS-SD 2012-13 Elections: Seeking Potential Candidates

By: Lezlee Koch, ASCLS-SD President 2011-12

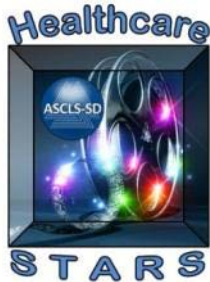
Want to be involved in your profession and ASCLS-SD? We would love to hear from you! Our annual meeting and elections will be held April 13, 2012 in Brookings SD. ASCLS-SD is seeking qualified candidates for the 2012-13 elected positions. **Refer to sidebar on this page for the elected ASCLS-SD 2012-13 open positions.**

If you are interested in any of these elected positions or have questions to help you decide, please contact:

Lezlee Koch, ASCLS-SD President 2011-12 [lezleek@sio.midco.net](mailto:lezleek@sio.midco.net)

Jeff Kistler, ASCLS-SD Nominations Committee [jeffrey.kistler@cardinalhealth.com](mailto:jeffrey.kistler@cardinalhealth.com)

Katie Harding, ASCLS-SD Nominations Committee [kharding@regionalhealth.com](mailto:kharding@regionalhealth.com)



### ASCLS-SD Spotlights:

**Tanya Crockett MLT(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>**  
**ASCLS-SD Government Affairs Chair 2011-12**



Tanya Crockett began her healthcare journey when she decided to go back to school after working in the workforce for a few years and not getting where she wanted to go. She stated she was not sure where that was but knew she was just not satisfied with what she was doing. Tanya wanted to get into a healthcare profession but knew she didn't want to be a nurse! Tanya's top choices were x-ray tech and laboratory technician. Mitchell Tech had many applicants for x-ray tech but limited slots available so Tanya deferred her career path to lab technician. Tanya said, "I exactly didn't know what I was getting into! Guess God knows best for us! I fit perfectly into the profession of Medical Laboratory Science!"

After school, Tanya worked as an MLT at St. Michael's Hospital for 3 years and at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital 2 years. Tanya is currently employed as a Service Coordinator for Avera Laboratory Network, Sioux Falls. When asked about this new position, Tanya shared, " Truthfully ... I can't believe where I'm at today! I loved the bench but always wanted to find out more about my profession. Now being part of the Avera Laboratory Network my small critical access world grew and multiplied overnight! Wow, it's just amazing what's out there. I'm still trying to absorb and grasp how a network of regional reference labs function and supplies services to outreach facilities across SD, NE, IA, MN, and ND. My task lists grow each day but that just makes me more motivated to make a difference in the laboratory profession by educating colleagues, friends, family members, physicians, and even that curious person that sparks up a conversation with you that you don't even know!

ASCLS-SD salutes Tanya for being one 'fired up professional member'. Tanya has only been an ASCLS member for a couple of years but she has hit the professional ground running! Tanya currently is the ASCLS-SD Government Affairs Chair, serves on the Promotion of the Profession Task Force, and was an ASCLS-SD/CLMA Fall Collaborative Program Committee Member for the 2011 Fall Collaborative Conference.

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