

MY CREDENTIAL STORY



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“Are you a Nurse?” I have been asked this question hundreds of times throughout my career. Although a source of frustration early in my career, this question now provides an opportunity to educate others about careers in laboratory medicine. My Medical Technologist, MT(ASCP) credential [now called MLS(ASCP)] brought a feeling of satisfaction. Hired as a generalist, I found myself scheduled in the blood bank and learned this was my true passion.

I gained the confidence to apply to a specialist in blood banking program and took a leap of faith to earn my second credential, Specialist in Blood Banking, SBB(ASCP). This advanced education in transfusion medicine led to many consultations with providers and a teaching position for a local Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT) program. It was a joy to teach alongside many of the professionals who had taught me as a student!

An unexpected turn in my career found me filling in as the corporate laboratory director. I immersed myself in the pathology arena and decided the Diplomate in Laboratory Management, DLM(ASCP) was a perfect next step. Advanced credentials had once again opened a new door for me! Each fork in my career path brought new opportunities to educate hospital executives on the superior qualities of laboratory professionals, such as attention to detail and a focus on quality patient care.

Today, as associate vice president of laboratory services, I have the privilege of building a career ladder for laboratory professionals and overseeing a medical laboratory science program. My credentials have given me the visibility to stand tall in my profession and pave the way for the next generation. These days, I am not often asked: Are you a nurse? Yet, I happily answer when given the chance. Who knows? I just might be speaking to the next laboratory professional.