

I want to start by wishing all of you a very happy holiday season. Several years ago I was able to spend some time in Washington DC over the holidays. It was wonderful to be able to visit the National Christmas Tree, Menorah, Yule Log, and other sites to be reminded of the strength that comes from our many beliefs and cultures. Every city has light displays, celebrations, and concerts that make this time of year my favorite. No matter if you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Boxing Day, Mawlid el-Nabi, Advent, Solstice, Rohatsu, or if you just enjoy the season of the year, we wish all of our members the happiest holiday season. This week I want to highlight some key initiatives to strengthen and recruit membership and announce the opening of registration for the ASCLD Leadership Academy.

ASCLD LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

ASCLD is excited to announce registration is NOW OPEN for the 6th Annual ASCLD Leadership Academy in Spring 2019!

The ASCLD Leadership Academy is a training program for managerial personnel in forensic science laboratories. It is designed to deliver training of the highest quality at a cost that recognizes the current strained budgets of labs across the US. The Academy is open to ASCLD members and non-members, alike.

The mission of the ASCLD Leadership Academy is to train managers to become LEADERS. Continuing into its 6th year, the ASCLD Leadership Academy will again offer a 100-level course designed specifically for newly appointed supervisors or supervisors who have had little opportunity for previous formal management training and education. The Academy is a blended training model, combining weekly lecture-style webinars with a “Management Lab” at the annual ASCLD symposium where students will participate in hands-on, practical exercises to develop their skills.

Please see the flyer linked in the President’s Corner for more information about the 2019 Leadership Academy course, including the course schedule.

To register for the ASCLD Leadership Academy, please visit:
<https://www.eiseverywhere.com/ascld2019>

Please note: The ASCLD Leadership Academy is limited to a maximum registration capacity of 50 students in order to maintain effective instructor to student ratios and facilitate the most effective in-person capstone course logistics. Registration requests received after the course has reached capacity may be waitlisted in the event of last minute cancellations.

ASCLD MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

A thriving membership adds strength to any organization. As our laboratories manage challenges with increased complexities and caseloads, it is important that today’s laboratory leaders and future leaders have the tools they need to drive their laboratory toward success. ASCLD membership provides relevant and timely information to its members as well as valuable training opportunities. Specifically, benefits to membership include networking opportunities with other laboratory leaders, current news and updates via the weekly Crime Lab Minute newsletter, ASCLD sponsored webinars, access to the Members Area of the website, access to past symposia presentations, and discounts on the symposium registration fees.

The Membership Committee has begun this year’s membership drive and is asking for our members’ assistance in identifying leaders within your laboratories that could benefit from the professional growth

that ASCLD provides. Please take a few minutes to invite emerging leaders in your laboratories to join ASCLD. Reach out to others outside your laboratories within our community that are prospective eligible members and invite them to join. Anyone in a leadership position within a crime laboratory is eligible to join ASCLD. This includes technical leaders, program managers, supervisors, quality managers, and directors.

The key objectives of ASCLD include the fostering of professional interests, assisting the development of laboratory management principles and techniques; acquiring, preserving and disseminating forensic based information; maintaining and improving communication; and promoting, encouraging and maintaining the highest standards of practice in the field.

Let us continue to strengthen ASCLD by inviting current and future crime laboratory leaders to take advantage of the benefits of ASCLD membership. Encourage those leaders to take an active interest in forensic management, sharing new ideas and a fresh perspective.

The application deadline is February 1, 2019. More information and applications for ASCLD membership can be found here:

<https://www.ascld.org/about-us/membership/>

Or please reach out to our Membership Committee Chair Jennifer McNair at jennifer.mcnair@ascld.org if you have questions or to share potential member contact information.