Career Guidance Counselor/ Science Teacher;

As your high school students graduate and make decisions about their future careers they will have many choices. Within the medical field, laboratory professions are often overlooked, but they make a huge impact on patient health. This career has excellent job stability and good compensation, with a current shortage of qualified personnel.

Medical Laboratory Science (formerly Medical Technology or Clinical Laboratory Science) is a profession that combines the challenges and rewards of medicine with laboratory science. Those who enjoy science, solving puzzles, working with laboratory instruments and computers while helping people at the same time, will find a perfect fit as medical laboratory professionals. As detectives of the health care world, these professionals search for clues to help in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of disease. It is estimated that up to 75% of clinicians' decisions regarding a patient's diagnosis and treatment are based on laboratory test results.

Students can enter this profession with either an associate's degree as a Medical Lab Technician (MLT) or a bachelor's degree as a Medical Lab Scientist (MLS). Those wishing to pursue medical school will find that the coursework has significant overlap and that medical laboratory experience provides insight that is missed in other areas of pre-medical instruction.

The American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS) and its constituent North Carolina Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (NCSCLS), are devoted to ensuring that our nation and state continue to have a steady supply of new MLS/MLT professionals.

Please share this information with students. Scholarships are available after a student is enrolled in a program. If anyone has any questions please feel free to contact us through our website, www.ncscls.org.

Thank you and look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Jesse Frank
2011-2013 NCSCLS President