



American Society for
Clinical Pathology

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Barbara J. McKenna, MD, FASCP

February 27, 2009

Michael Crow, President
Arizona State University
PO Box 877705
Tempe, AZ 85287-7705

Dear Mr. Crow:

It is unfortunate that the efforts of the American Society for Clinical Pathology's (ASCP) membership to voice their concerns over Arizona State University's (ASU) potential closure of its CLS/MT program inconvenienced you or any member of the Board of Regents. The advocacy campaign, "Don't Close the Door on Laboratory Education" was intended to have you reconsider closing the CLS/MT program at the university. Our membership responded in droves because they are deeply committed to the field of laboratory medicine; they have continued to witness the closure of laboratory training programs and sought to do what they could to save one. Once we were advised that some of the Regents did not wish to receive these communications, they were stopped.

In your correspondence that went to the advocates who participated in the advocacy campaign, you stated that a substantial commitment had been made in the areas of Nursing, Biomedical Informatics and Translational Neuroscience. Although these efforts are to be commended as forward thinking and encompassing the future of medicine, there remains little doubt that the backbone of the practice of medicine still resides within the laboratory. In your letter you have provided some statistics that are contrary to information that we have on the ASU CLS/MT program. Perhaps in discussions with the CLS/MT Program Director, Diana Mass, these discrepancies could be addressed.

ASCP has always been committed to advocacy and to action. A nonprofit medical specialty society representing 130,000 members, including board certified pathologists, other physicians, clinical scientists, medical technologists and technicians, the Society is the leading provider of continuing education for pathologists and medical laboratory personnel. ASCP enhances the quality of the profession through comprehensive education programs, publications and self-assessment materials.



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ASU has a long distinguished history of training laboratorians. In a climate where the field is experiencing such decline, ASCP is striving to continue to make the field of laboratory medicine viable and enticing to students at the cornerstone of deciding their careers. The Society remains hopeful that ASU's Board of Regents and Administration will work to devise a strategy to save the program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara McKenna".

Barbara McKenna, MD, FASCP
President, American Society for Clinical Pathology

cc:

Rich Crandall
Nancy Barto
John Huppenthal
Elizabeth Capaldi
Fred Boice
Robert Bulla
Ernest Calderon
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Fred DuVal
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