

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

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- NCSA-AST Webpage Updates



Elvis Whitfield CST-FA
Board Secretary NCSA-AST

Message from the North Carolina Board

The North Carolina State Assembly Association of Surgical Technologist (NCSA-AST) wants you to support our profession with commitment, passion and compassion for all our communities across the state. Aseptic Technique, Surgical Conscience and Time Outs are vital instruments that equal to Patient Safety. *Aeger Primo, the patient first.*

When I started out in this profession in 2006, I had no idea how much personal satisfaction I would obtain. I graduated and immediately sat for the certifying exam. It was not easy so I suggest getting together in study groups and cover all the materials before you decide to sit for the exam. During my career, as a Certified Surgical Technologist, I have been introduced to orthopedics, gynecology, urology, ENT, organ transplant, orthodontal, ophthalmology, general, pediatric and now plastic surgeries. It has been a fantastic career opportunity. We encourage every CST, CFA, ST, and ST student to support and become part of the NCSA-AST family.

I have been fortunate to serve on the NCSA Board in some capacity since 2008. Our NCSA Board has made a major impact on building the foundation of Surgical Technologist in the state of North Carolina. We have always had an outstanding group of individuals representing for the state of North Carolina.

We, as professionals, strive for recognition and respect in every aspect of our chosen career path. We all have the opportunity to solidify our stronghold in the foundation created to ensure we are recognized within each medical community.

There are many opportunities for all of us to network and receive education by attending our state assembly annual meetings and mini workshops. These are times for us to support fellow surgical technologist, surgical co-workers, program students, and the profession. As the only CST in my facility, I am excited to be on the Board as Secretary of NCSA-AST of North Carolina because I have insightful information that can be shared with my colleagues.

We, as Surgical Technologist serve as a vital component of patient care, each and every time we walk into the OR suites. Stand tall and be proud of your profession and accomplishments. It is an honor for me to be part of a very talented team in the field of surgical technologist, working diligently every day in our chosen profession. Stay connected with NCSA-AST and your peers in the surgical technology field. Continue being dedicated to our profession and to every patient. Take this time to earn your recognition and respect for what we do.

Written by: Elvis Whitfield



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Mock Breast Surgery for Awareness

"You are a nurse right?" This is a statement that skilled Certified Surgical Technologists hear all the time. The general public and even our patients assume that because we work in a hospital we were all nurses. There is only one way to change this misconception and that is through public awareness. In April I was approached to speak at the Seaside Wellness Women's Awareness event in Southern Shores. They wanted me to talk about the operating room and the myths involved with the surgical setting.

I jumped at the opportunity and immediately enlisted the assistance of two of my co-workers, Lana Trimble, RN, CST/CSFA and Cindi Beckett, CST to help in presenting a mock surgery demonstrating a breast biopsy. As we began the draping process the questions began to flow freely from those in attendance. This was my chance to inform every one of the roles and responsibilities of the CST in the operating room. They quickly began to understand that the "TV" version of what takes place in the OR is much more different than reality. This included explaining the importance of always having a CST in the operating room for every surgical procedure and the education and training required to become a Certified Surgical Technologist. They were surprised to hear that certification was not required to work in the operating room in the state of North Carolina.

After all was done and we were preparing to leave, many of the women in attendance thanked us for our presentation and asked us to come back for their fall awareness event. One question that has continued to play over and over in my head was when I was asked, "Why was I certified when it was not required"? My answer was "for you. You are my patient and will always receive the best care possible when I am in the room".

Written by: Katie Dowdy



Picture above includes the following:
Katie Dowdy, Lana Trimble and Cindi Beckett

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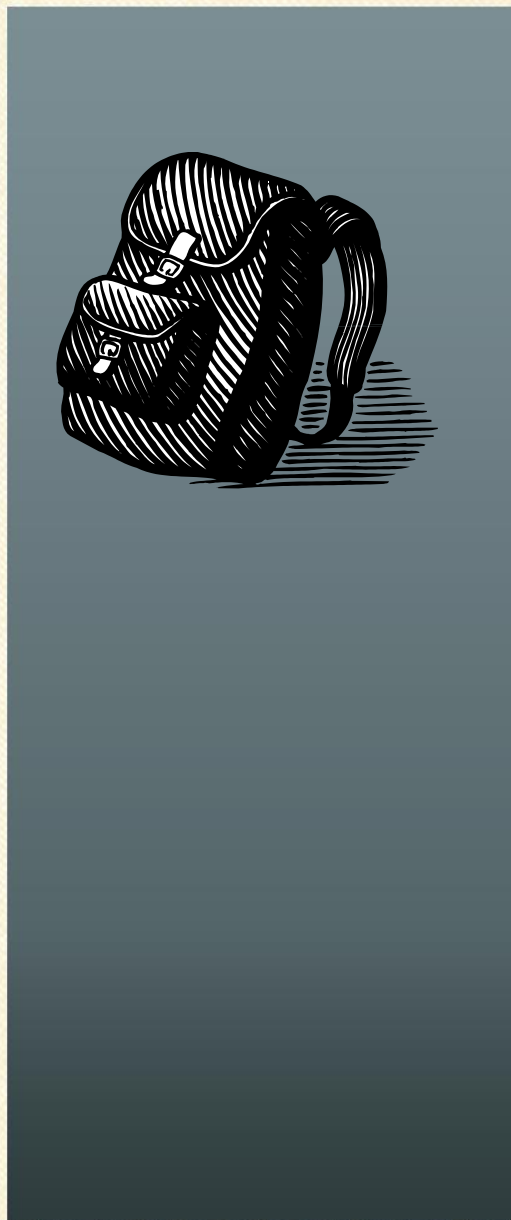
<http://nc.ast.org>

Community Outreach

NC - AST would like reach out and help our communities by starting a community outreach program. We would like to do a project for each city that host a meeting/workshop. This will not only benefit our communities but it will also help spread the word about Surgical Technologist and open numerous doors for us as well. We are starting our outreach program with our September meeting let's make this a big success.

Meet the NC-AST Challenge at your facility by collecting 5 back to school backpacks for the Jeff Gordon Children's Hospital. Items donated were coloring books, crayons, tooth brushes, tooth paste, shampoo, conditioner, soap, deodorant, blankets, and pillows.

Let's support our profession and our communities by going outside the OR walls. Written by: Jamie Tinsley



NCSA-AST WEBPAGE MAKEOVER

nc.ast.org

We have updated the North Carolina webpage to better serve our viewers.

New features on the webpage are:

- Registration online for workshops and state meetings
- Board member contacts
- Legislation updates
- Electronic version of NCSA-AST Newsletters
- Photo Gallery

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