

**2026 ASCLS-SD Spring Conference**  
**April 17, 2026**  
**Western Dakota Technical College – Event Center**  
**800 Mickelson Dr., Rapid City, SD**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Session</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
08:00-09:00	<b>REGISTRATION</b> (Breakfast starting at 08:30)		
09:00-10:00	Session (Scientific)  413-001-26 Level: Basic	<p align="center"><b>From Bench to Surveillance: Infectious Disease Control in South Dakota</b></p> <p>This session will examine the role of clinical laboratories in reportable disease surveillance and their collaboration with the South Dakota Department of Health (SD-DOH). Through recent examples of foodborne and vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks, participants will explore how timely collection and testing of clinical specimens support public health surveillance, outbreak detection, and response efforts. The presentation will also introduce SD-DOH infectious disease data dashboards and demonstrate how laboratory professionals can use these tools to summarize and interpret current epidemiologic trends in South Dakota.</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Describe the role of clinical laboratories in reportable disease surveillance, including methods for reporting test results to the South Dakota Department of Health (SD-DOH).</li> <li>2. Discuss recent outbreaks of foodborne and vaccine-preventable diseases, emphasizing the importance of timely collection and submission of clinical specimens for public health testing.</li> <li>3. Utilize SD-DOH data dashboards to summarize and interpret the current epidemiology of infectious diseases in South Dakota.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Dustin Ortbahn, MPH</b></p> <p><b>Deputy State Epidemiologist South Dakota Department of Health</b></p>
10:00-11:00	Session (Scientific)  413-002-26 Level: Intermediate	<p align="center"><b>Targeting Group A <i>Streptococcus</i> for System Improvement</b></p> <p>Leveraging near-patient nucleic acid amplification tests (NAAT) in the clinic setting is a growing practice that many health system laboratories have been hesitant or slow to adopt. Targeting Group A <i>Streptococcus</i> via NAAT in the clinic setting benefits patients, providers, and the laboratory team.</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Discuss clinical burden of Group A <i>Streptococcus</i>.</li> <li>2. Assess current common diagnostics highlighting benefits and limitations.</li> <li>3. Describe the various benefits of implementing a point-of-care NAAT based testing strategy.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Tyler Radke, MLS (ASCP)<sup>CM</sup></b></p> <p><b>Director of Laboratory &amp; Pathology Emplify Health</b></p>
11:00-12:00	Annual Board SD Meeting	<p align="center"><b>ASCLS-SD Annual Board Business Meeting</b></p> <p>Recap of 2025, Awards, and Voting for open Board Positions *Lunch will be served at 11:30</p>	<p><b>Alissa Neigel President, ASCLS-SD</b></p>
13:30-15:00	Volunteering	<p align="center"><b>Founder's Park</b></p> <p align="center">1510 W. Omaha Street – Community Clean-Up</p>	<p><b>All Welcome</b></p>

ASCLS-SD gratefully acknowledges the following vendors for their generous support of this education program.

