



National Society for Histotechnology
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www.nsh.org

Twila Westbrooks – Convention Committee



Q. Tell us about yourself and where you work.

A. I am the lead histotechnologist at IU North Medical Center located in Carmel, Indiana. My focus at work is primarily on frozen sections.

Q. What have been your challenges and highlights over the past few years?

One highlight that I have noticed is that histology is now recognized in society as an important aspect in the detection and treatment of cancer.

Over the past few years, the biggest challenge has been the transition from a privately held organization to an incorporated system. This has led to many changes in the processes and systems to make our field seem more efficient and cohesive.

Q. How has volunteering helped you build upon your successes and/or addressed your challenges?

A. By volunteering I am able to meet and collaborate with many individuals across the United States. This has led to the improvement of processes that can be applied unilaterally across the medical system in the United States. This collaboration has also highlighted deficiencies within my own system that I have adjusted to make my department more efficient.

Q. What advice do you have for others who would like to volunteer?

A. When volunteering get more involved. Don't just go to the conferences but join a committee. This will help you to build life-long friends and collaboration that is immeasurable.

Q. How did you become involved in the field of histology (what drew you to the field)?

A. While enrolled in a nursing program, I worked part-time in the lab. I happened to see a tech cutting a ribbon and the very thin sections caught my attention. I was hooked at that point.

Q. What important skills should people have if they wish to pursue a career in histology?

A. A career in histology has had many changes since I entered the field and I see it growing more as the technology changes. Keeping the same level of compassion about the needs and care of the patient and never lose sight of the importance of that fact. It's not tissue - it represents a person.

Q. What is your favorite aspect of your job?

A. My job mostly consists of frozen sections which allows me to interact with many of the surgeons and surgical staff.



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Q. When you are not at work, what are your passions/hobbies?

A. My passion is traveling and visiting different countries and my hobbies include organizations and decorating homes.

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