

AMT Member Spotlight

AMT is the national certification agency and membership association of allied health professionals. Our members are the reason our quality certifications are making a difference in healthcare. Read about the characteristics that set AMT members apart.

Margaret Blaetz, CLC(AMT)

Margaret Blaetz, CLC(AMT) first became interested in medical laboratory science as a 12-year-old watching an episode of *General Hospital* after school. The storyline had people dying from a mysterious disease. A lab tech at the hospital looked into the microscope, identified the pathogen and saved the town. At that moment, Margaret knew what she wanted to do when she grew up.

She achieved her dream by starting at Camden County College and graduating with an associate's degree in medical laboratory technology. She worked as a specimen processor for a while before returning to college and earning her bachelors in life sciences. From there, she moved through several positions in microbiology, eventually working her way up to supervisor, a role she enjoyed. "As a laboratory technical supervisor, I find my reward when my employees are motivated to grow and progress because of the tools and support I have provided," says Margaret. "When employees progress to higher positions, I am proud to be part of that development."

During her time as supervisor, she had a memorable experience that reminded her of why she chose laboratory science as her life's work. The lab she was working in had installed a new blood culture analyzer that read samples four times per hour, around the clock. Not long afterward, a culture was detected as positive within a few hours of collection. The patient was a 6-month-old baby who had been seen in the ER but discharged. After reading the gram stain, Margaret called the ER, and the patient was brought back in for sepsis, which had already advanced to meningitis. With the



previous analyzer, the preliminary result would have been delayed 24 hours, but the quick action of her lab saved the baby's life. At that moment Margaret realized she had done something her 12-year-old self had dreamed about; she looked in a microscope, identified a pathogen and saved a life.

Later, Margaret received an offer to work on a project developing and opening a physician's office laboratory, which has been operational for almost seven years. This work inspired her to build a consulting business for clinical laboratories. She knew that certification as a Clinical Laboratory Consultant would help her succeed in this chapter of her career, so Margaret submitted a portfolio of her work and earned her CLC (AMT) certification. Upon earning that certification, she joined the New Jersey state society, where she proudly serves as editor. For others considering becoming a CLC, Margaret suggests finding a mentor and learning everything you can.

When she isn't working, Margaret enjoys traveling with her husband. She also works closely with SOS Beagle Rescue, Inc. after adopting two dogs of her own, by volunteering to drive transport runs for dogs on the way to their "forever homes."



AMT
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Certifying Excellence in Allied Health

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*"AMT certification has given me **confidence** when speaking to a potential new client because I have the CLC designation after my name. When I first researched the qualifications, there were a few areas in which my experience was weak. It took me a year to build my portfolio and submit it for review. My application for CLC certification was accepted and approved on the first submission, which reinforced my belief that I was qualified and fully competent to expand my network of clients. Now when I speak to a potential customer, I highlight those steps in the learning process as evidence of my knowledge and experience."*

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