

Tamara Chambers-Richards

My name is Tamara Chambers-Richards, and I currently work as Academic Chair of Medical Diagnostics at Saskatchewan Polytechnic. I am an MLT with a passion for advancing the visibility of my profession as an important partner of health care teams. This has led me along many paths, one of which is being a researcher and lifelong learner.

What is your involvement with the CSMLS Research and Special Initiatives Department?

I am currently partnering with CSMLS as a researcher at Saskatchewan Polytechnic. Our most recent partnership is submitting a joint application for an Aboriginal Language Grant. This would be an exciting opportunity to curate and translate laboratory testing content to three common Indigenous languages, allowing for engagement with and empowerment of Indigenous groups toward health care stewardship.

The CSMLS also participated in a recently concluded research project that evaluated experience of internationally educated MLTs and methods for bridging gaps for employment to meet MLT shortages in Saskatchewan.

Why do you value your partnership and project(s) with CSMLS?

Partnering with CSMLS is important to me as we share a common purpose. I believe that my own purpose as an educational leader matches that of CSMLS – to “promote and maintain a nationally accepted standard of medical laboratory technology by which other health professionals and the public are assured of effective and economical laboratory services, and to promote, maintain and protect the professional identity and interests of the medical laboratory professional and of the profession.” Our partnership is mutually beneficial as together we can reach the common objective of ensuring that laboratory professionals of the highest caliber are part of a viable and engaged health system.

How will your project(s) help the medical laboratory profession?

Partnering with CSMLS on health services research is important as this provides valid information for program and systems planning, ultimately meeting a profound need for a diversified, expanded pool of qualified MLTs to fill employment shortages. Additionally, our partnership is beneficial as it provides an avenue for research mentorship for upcoming laboratory technologists and their educators.