

# Partnerships in Service of Laboratory Training & Fellowships

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## Brief Summary of Case Study:

In the third session of this year's Building Bridges series, Dr. Angela Fritzing, Ph.D. shared a case study on the Virginia Commonwealth University/Virginia Public Health Laboratory collaboration to develop and offer a [public health laboratory sciences concentration](#) as part of the university's Master of Science in Medical Laboratory Sciences Program. Dr. Karen Honeycutt, Ph.D. MEd, MASCP, MLS(ASCP) highlighted the University of Nebraska Medical Center's MLS program in support of unique educational partnerships to expand their MLS training. Finally, Dr. Kelly Winter, Ph.D. MPH presented a case study on the innovative and collaborative effort of [CDC's OneLab](#) Initiative and its paired open access learning management system, [OneLab REACH](#). This system provides a centralized location for laboratory professionals to access training resources to support laboratory capacity building and preparedness efforts.

## Cross-Cutting Lessons Learned/Best Practices Applied by Faculty:

In order to offer unique and collaborative trainings and fellowships for the laboratory workforce, it is critical to:

1. Leverage existing partnerships and build new partnerships.  
*Build on existing partnerships and networks to share ideas on similar goals, provide synergy to each other's contributions, and identify new partners of interest. Model collaborative behavior by listening to and learning about partners' goals and respecting existing relationships. Facilitate communication between partners, understanding that your role may be to serve best as a liaison between partners.*
2. Be flexible.  
*While keeping your central goal in mind, be open to new ideas, flexible to changing course, and devise backup plans in the event of obstacles. Adopt a "Yes, and" mindset to move programmatic work forward in a productive way.*
3. Take a "minimal viable product" (MVP) approach.  
*Don't let the ideal of perfection delay progress now. Start with the MVP which, in this setting, represents the bare minimum requirements needed for an educational product or program to be useful to its learners. From that, you can gather real-time learner feedback, and then create a more interactive and enduring program. For example, this could mean using job aids or webinars to set the foundation for creating interactive trainings in the future. Be willing to start small. Taking this approach will also enable you to more quickly respond to emerging training needs.*
4. Be an advocate for the laboratory profession and workforce needs.  
*Be proactive, prepared, and purposeful with student recruitment and outreach efforts for laboratory training programs. When helpful to advocacy efforts, provide data on laboratory workforce shortages and gaps to justify laboratory training program needs.*

## Laboratory Training & Fellowship Resources Referenced at this Building Bridges Session:

Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services, Richmond, VA

Internship: Internship Program ([virginia.gov](https://www.virginia.gov))

Note: Summer 2024 application period has closed, but anyone interested can submit a resume for consideration.

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## Association of Public Health Laboratories/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Fellowships: [Laboratory Fellowships \(aphl.org\)](https://www.aphl.org)

Internships: [Laboratory Internships \(aphl.org\)](https://www.aphl.org)

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## American Society for Clinical Pathology

Grants and Scholarships: <https://www.ascp.org/content/grants-scholarships#>

Fellowships: <https://www.ascp.org/content/about-ascp/ascp-foundation/providing-scholarships#>

Dr. Alvin Ring Scholarship: <https://form.jotform.com/240254786461056>

Support for CDC's OneLab Initiative: <https://www.supportcdconelab.org/>

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## Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

OneLab Network: [bit.ly/OneLabNetwork-ASCP](https://bit.ly/OneLabNetwork-ASCP)

OneLab REACH: [bit.ly/OneLabREACH-ASCP](https://bit.ly/OneLabREACH-ASCP)

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Visit our [hub site](#) to find additional resources for this Building Bridges Across the Laboratory session!

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