

Whitney Bartels

I will never forget the day I received the e-mail notifying me I had been chosen to represent South Dakota as the SDSRT Student Representative in the ASRT's Student Leadership Development Program. I had wrote the essay with the mindset that I more than likely would not be chosen but figured I would do it anyways. I couldn't think of a reason not to. Then I received that e-mail. I graciously accepted and have been learning nonstop ever since. My experience has been invaluable.

My first endeavor was attending the South Dakota State Radiology Conference in Sioux Falls with the senior class in my program. As a junior this was a huge honor. I not only got to attend informative lectures on everything from Interventional Radiology to Mammography to new imaging equipment used in the Operating Room, but I met numerous professionals in the field. I also met other radiology students from around the state, including the other South Dakota Student Representative Kayla Purrington, which was great considering we were about to attend the Annual ASRT House of Delegates Meeting in Orlando, Florida together soon! The SDSRT had numerous meetings that I as a member of the society was able to witness as well. I was impressed on how well the society members were able to juggle so many tasks with such organization and professionalism. It was an eye-opening experience that showed me just how profound our profession is in the healthcare field.

The ASRT Annual House of Delegates Meeting was in June in Orlando, Florida. I have a hard time describing how truly incredible it was. I met ASRT board members, radiology professionals, and other students from all over the United States. I attended lectures of my choosing, numerous dinning banquets, meetings, and even had time for nights out on the town with all the new friends I made. I literally have a stack of contacts, information regarding continuing education, and other papers with precious information on them that will significantly aid me in my career. Not only that, but I still am in contact with all the other students I met. It feels good to not only have professional relationships but personal friendships as well with others from different corners of the United States. Experiencing all of this as a first year student brought me out of my comfort zone and has positively impacted me in ways I never thought possible. I have seen the big picture. I know what it feels like to be a part of something so much bigger than I have ever been a part of before. ASRT members are a united body of individuals that support each other, and the smaller state societies make up a large part of that amount. As a student I

realized just how important I am and the role I am playing in the future of radiology. The SDSRT and ASRT recognize this and thus utilize the Student Leadership Development Program as encouragement for students to grow and work towards keeping the field of radiology alive and well.

I am proud to be a member of the South Dakota Society of Radiologic Technologists and the American Society of Radiologic Technologists. Membership in both societies is invaluable and a way to support my career. I will forever be thankful for all the opportunities that I have been given and the experiences I made. I highly encourage all radiology students to apply for the Student Leadership Development Program and to become a member of the SDSRT and the ASRT and continue to maintain that membership for the rest of their career. The opportunities are endless.

Kayla Purrington

2014 ASRT Annual Governance
House Of Delegates Meeting

I was fortunate enough to represent South Dakota at the 2014 ASRT Annual Governance and House of Delegates Meeting in Orlando, Florida. Whitney Bartels, the other Student Delegate from South Dakota, and members of the SDSRT board attended as well. The meeting took place June 26-29th. Delegates from all over the country came to participate, and there were 74 Student Delegates total. We attended business meetings that discussed various topics and concerns. For example, the issue of post-shuttering an image and sending it through as an additional projection or exposure has become very common, and is entirely unethical. Thus, we amended the Practice Standards so they clearly stated so. It was very moving to see such a large group of people actively bettering the profession for patients and themselves.

I attended educational symposiums about pathology, autism in imaging, harassment, and customer service. All of the information was presented very well and I learned a lot! I also attended chapter meetings for Sonography, the Military, and Cardio-Vascular Interventional Radiology. Each chapter had their own successes and achievements. They also discussed goals and nominated Delegates for next year. The Military chapter was exceptionally interesting, because I had no idea that one existed in the first place.

My favorite part about the whole experience was the people I met. All of us students compared our Radiology programs and talked about our experiences so far. I met many influential people and great role models as well as life-long friends. Attending the National Conference inspired me to become involved at the State Level, and perhaps eventually the National Level. I recommend the experience to all new students!