

2017 – 2018 FELLOWS

Denise Lopez, MS, PHM

Public Health Laboratory Manager / ELAP Laboratory Director
 Tulare County Public Health Laboratory



Denise Lopez completed her undergraduate and graduate work at Fresno State University where she was awarded US EPA's Greater Research Opportunities Fellowship and named the Dean's Medalist of her graduating class for the Department of Science and Mathematics. She joined the Tulare County Public Health Lab in 2006 and, as a Public Health Microbiologist, has performed testing in the areas of molecular

diagnostics, serology, bacteriology, virology, mycology, parasitology, mycobacteriology, and blood chemistry. As the Training Coordinator and Safety Officer, she developed the facility's plans for biosafety, security, incident response, and chemical hygiene, in compliance with DSAT regulations. She became the Public Health Laboratory Manager in 2011 and the ELAP Director in 2012.

She was awarded the Fresno State University Biology Department Outstanding Alumnus Award in 2016 and serves on the Biology Department Advisory Board. She serves on the CAPHLD Program Planning Committee and as co-chair of the Training Committee.

Denise is also a certified Lean Leader and an active member of APHL. She is a graduate of the Emerging Leader Program, has led pre-conference workshops, breakout sessions, and roundtables at APHL annual meetings, and has participated in on-site Lean consultation exercises in local and state laboratories. She currently serves on the APHL Laboratory Systems and Standards (LSS) Committee, on the LSS Return-on-Investment taskforce, and as Member-at-large of the Governing Board for the APHL Network of Laboratory Leadership Alumni.