



## ACG Employee Named SLAS Fellow

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### *Kenda Evans named one of only 100 fellows of the international Society for Lab Automation and Screening.*

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In college, [Kenda Evans](#)' biology professor refused to write her a positive recommendation for medical school.

"He didn't think I could [be successful]," Kenda recently recalled.

Today, she is one of only 100 [fellows](#) in the world of the [Society for Lab Automation and Screening](#), an international professional society of academic, industry and government researchers, developers and providers of laboratory automation technology and tools.

"It was a huge honor for me," said Kenda, an active member of the society since 2003.

SLAS, as the society is known, describes itself as leading "the pursuit of research excellence."

All SLAS fellow are "well-known thought leaders in their fields," explained [Randy Bolger](#), Kenda's manager.

"Kenda earned this award through tireless volunteering and committee leadership at SLAS events and her reputation as a creative and diligent problem-solver while serving our liquid-handling automation customer base," said Randy, sales manager for automation solutions on the Americas Laboratory Solutions Sales (LSS) team in ACG.

Kenda, an automation workflow specialist of more than 12 years, said she hopes to use her SLAS-fellow platform to continue her ambassadorship.

"I want to help foster that new generation of scientists."

Kenda becoming an SLAS fellow shows just how much of an impact she's made on Agilent automation and the automation industry overall, said [Lars Kristiansen](#), general manager of LSAG's Automation Solutions Business.

"It proves what we in Agilent already know: Kenda is a leader in this space and certainly recognized by colleagues and industry peers as such."

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Kenda jokes that she's "a traveling scientist."

"I tell people I sell robots that help companies develop drugs better," she explained. "I work with drug-discovery companies and help them do their experiments more efficiently."

Kenda's efforts have been essential, said [Garrison Birch](#), director of North America Technical Sales on the Americas LSS team.

"The work Kenda has been doing to integrate our automation products into the broader portfolio is critical in our mission to deliver compelling One Agilent solutions and workflows," he said.

Lars dubbed Kenda the "Agilent Automation Queen."

"She truly puts our customers first and pushes me and the team to always do the same. She does it with a smile, constructive dialogue and while rolling up her sleeves to help," he continued. "I know very few people who go the extra mile the way Kenda does."

When she's not traveling to talk about robots, Kenda gives back to her community.

For starters, she is vice chairman for the Directions and Assistance Committee of the [Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo](#), the largest livestock exhibition and rodeo in the world that recorded attendance of nearly 2.5 million people in 2022.

"I've completed 15 rodeos," the Houston, Texas, resident said proudly.

The rodeo is one of the largest scholarship providers in the U.S., presenting more than 20,000 scholarships valued at \$275 million since 1957.

"We're trying to promote an agriculture way of life," Kenda said. "I grew up raising cattle, I showed cattle in local youth fairs, and my nieces and nephews have all gone to college on rodeo scholarships. It's something I'm very proud of."

She also raises scholarship dollars via a Southwestern University 5K run in honor of her middle brother, Jaysn, who died in a scuba-diving accident. Thus far, the run has raised more than \$270,000 in scholarship dollars.

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Kenda described working at Agilent as "some of the best years I've had in my career."

In more than a decade at the company, she has been an Agilent President's Club honoree and a President's Club High Achiever Club member.

The company's culture and values, Kenda said, are ones she holds near and dear to her heart.

"I feel very comfortable being at Agilent because I know I'm going to be backed by my management when I stand up for my beliefs."

She added: "There's so much freedom and encouragement for growth."

*Photos: Courtesy of Kenda Evans*

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**Kenda at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo**



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**Kenda at the Southwestern Univ. 5K run in honor of her brother**



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