

Candidate Name:

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How do you work with or lead a team?

Humility, passion, empathy, dedication, and resilience are all qualities I channel and aspire to encompass as I walk through life serving various leadership roles. I believe that to be an effective team leader, you must be open and consider yourself a lifelong learner. To guide a team to success, one requires a myriad of ever-expanding skills and qualities. Successful leadership requires simultaneous strength to maintain confidence and flexibility to be adaptable to life's most challenging constant: change. I prioritize efficient and effective communication, as it is crucial to convey ideas and a team's vision clearly. The deepest motivation in my leadership practice is to continuously work to ignite passions and purpose in others. Nothing brings me more unsurmounted joy than seeing others climb ladders of growth to achieve more of their untapped potential. Great leaders must be able to inspire and motivate team members, igniting a sense of passion and purpose in those they lead. When challenges arise for my teams, I strive to think critically and remain level-headed, drawing on my problem-solving skills and good judgment to navigate any obstacles. After the challenges have passed, I also prioritize reflection and growth, as I know that every challenge presents itself as an opportunity for growth. I encourage my team to view happenstances similarly to maintain a positive and motivating environment. A sense of unity and shared purpose defines an incredible team, and this may only be achieved by leading by example with transparency and integrity.

What leadership experiences have equipped you for the President/VP role?

I am humbled to have had numerous opportunities to serve in leadership positions that have prepared me for the role of National President/Vice President. For the University of Detroit Mercy ASDA Chapter, I previously served in committee roles for wellness and social media, then worked my way up to become Secretary, and I now graciously hold the Chapter President position. As Chapter President, I serve as lead chairperson of the Executive Council, preside at chapter meetings, and direct all activities. This experience has equipped me with delegation skills, communication tactics, and resilience that will help me chair the board of trustees. In addition, I manage an exceptionally large budget, as UDM is an auto-enroll school with an abundance of generous sponsors, so I feel prepared to oversee the national annual budget. District 6ASDA has further encouraged my momentum in ASDA leadership, as I first served as Advocacy Director in 2022-2023. I am currently spearheading the role as our first-ever Trauma-Informed Care Taskforce Lead. These district roles have helped me learn from leaders outside my chapter and even gain perspectives beyond my district regarding all of ASDA's significant initiatives. On a state level, I serve on the Michigan Dental Association's Committee on Access to Care. The work done on this committee directly corresponds and connects with ASDA's goals of decreasing barriers to care. This role has taught me strategies for developing and implementing strategic plans for large-scale organizations to reach their goals and benefit the profession and patients alike.

What are 2-3 issues important to dental students and/or the position of President/VP?

The national leaders of ASDA must be well-versed on issues facing dental students to advocate for the Association's needs and concerns effectively. ASDA has taken affirmative stances on many issues affecting the profession with the goals of implementing policies and initiatives that address these issues,

guiding local chapters, and promoting the success of dental students. Firstly, the initiatives that promote diversity, equity, and inclusion are the backbone of both ASDA and the ADA, as they ensure that every individual can fully participate in the dental profession and receive support through organized dentistry. By promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion, we can create a space where every student and patient feels valued and supported. In addition, ASDA recognizes the impact of student loan debt on dental students and their future career paths. To address this issue, we advocate for policies that promote loan forgiveness and repayment programs for dental students, such as the REDI Act. Furthermore, ASDA encourages dental schools to provide financial literacy education to help students make informed decisions about borrowing and repayment. Thirdly, decreasing barriers to care is critical for the dental profession and students because it ensures that all individuals have access to quality dental care. By reducing barriers such as cost, transportation, and language barriers, we can work to eliminate disparities in oral health outcomes. By understanding and addressing the barriers preventing some individuals from accessing care, dental students can advocate for their patients and work towards creating a more equitable healthcare system.