

Candidate Name:

Loren Matrone, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Dentistry '25

How do you work with or lead a team?

Throughout my time in dental school, I have always held myself to the standard that kindness and mutual respect go a long way as a leader. No matter what team I've been a part of, whether that be my college golf team, or the Board of Trustees, leading with emotional intelligence and treating others kindly has always served me well. I feel incredibly passionate about holding myself and the members of my team to the highest standard of excellence. When I think about the best leaders I've worked with, they all have a few things in common. The best leaders, I believe, have held me to the highest standard, and have inspired me to expect more from myself. Consistently learning from those around me, I have implemented new leadership strategies into my own teams. It's been important that my cabinet and officer teams know how much I value transparency. I have also always aimed to create an environment where team members feel supported, empowered, and cared for. Throughout this past year serving as Houston Chapter President and District 9 Trustee, I have been challenged and pushed out of my comfort zone in a variety of ways. I have grown into a kinder, more empathetic, and more understanding leader over the past year, and I know ASDA will continue to shape me into the person and clinician I want to be.

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

Nothing could have prepared me for the amount of growth I have experienced during my year as Trustee and Chapter President. Not only do I love this Association more than I ever thought I could, but I've had the privilege of seeing how much hard work, time, and energy goes into making ASDA as incredible as it is. Behind everything ASDA does for its members, is a team of dedicated national leaders and staff that help to bring the vision to light. My position on the Board of Trustees has given me a firsthand look into how the organization runs on a day-to-day basis, given me perspective on the fiduciary responsibility we hold, and given me some of the most special friendships in my life. After this year, I feel more than prepared to serve as a mentor to the next Board of Trustees, advise them through the unique challenges we face as Trustees, and consistently support them in their endeavors. I have felt so lucky to have the current EC as mentors and friends, and I hope to bring the same unconditional support, kindness, and understanding to next year's Board. In addition to my role internally with the Board of Trustees, I also feel uniquely qualified to serve as a representative for ASDA externally with outside organizations. I feel fortunate to have built a wonderful network within organized dentistry, and I look forward to continuing to build upon relationships with organizations such as the ADA.

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

When I get the chance to ask students about what issues concern them the most, I often get very similar answers. Two of the biggest issues I see students face are licensure portability and access to mental health resources. It's no secret that ASDA has paved the way in advocating for a licensing process that is ethical, universally accepted, and psychometrically valid. As the Dentist and Dental Hygiene Compact gains support throughout the country, it's important that students are aware of how the potential passing of the DDH Compact in their state could impact the way they practice. Licensure portability in

the capacity of the DDH Compact works to increase mobility of dental practitioners and address workforce shortage issues by allowing increased geographical access to practice. In addition to the issue of licensure portability, I have seen firsthand how access to mental health care can impact dental students. Mental well-being is very important to me, and I've seen the way not caring for my mental health can impact all aspects of my life, not just how I do dentistry. In the September 2022 issue of Contour, I authored an article on the non-profit organization "Hope For The Day" detailing the impact mental health advocacy organizations can have on our profession. My hope for my time as President is to continue and increase the work we do with mental health organizations to provide an even greater abundance of resources to our students.