

**Candidate Name:**

**Tareina Rogers, Tufts University School of Dental Medicine '25**

**How do you work with or lead a team?**

I appreciate this question as it allows me to reflect on my experiences and the lessons I've learned about effective leadership. My preferred leadership style involves empowering individuals by seeking their input on their strengths and how they can best contribute to the team's success. I have found that assigning roles without considering their input can limit their confidence and productivity. However, when individuals are given the opportunity to share their skills and contribute to the collective, it can result in a beautiful, customized product that is special to those who created it. In my leadership approach, I believe in fostering a collaborative environment where everyone's input is valued. Each person brings unique experiences and perspectives, and by accepting and celebrating these differences, we can generate phenomenal ideas that bring greatness and harmony to the table. Leading a team is about working together and leveraging the diverse strengths and experiences of each team member. By embracing this inclusive leadership style, I have witnessed the positive impact it can have on team dynamics and outcomes. It encourages individuals to take ownership of their work, boosts their confidence, and fosters a sense of collective achievement. Ultimately, effective leadership is about creating an environment where everyone feels heard, valued, and motivated to contribute their best.

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

Through my various leadership experiences, I have had the privilege of serving as a trustee to district 1, as well as holding prominent national positions in two esteemed dental organizations, SNDA and ADEA. Additionally, I have gained valuable skills as an officer manager for a startup dental practice and through executive board positions within ASDA. Furthermore, I embarked on an exciting journey by founding my own student organization at Tufts University School of Dental Medicine. These diverse leadership roles have allowed me to connect and engage with fellow students through multiple platforms. In national positions within ASDA, I have had the opportunity to contribute my skills and knowledge to a wide range of initiatives. These experiences have not only enhanced my ability to lead, but also strengthened my understanding of the dental field on a national scale. By actively participating in these organizations, I have been able to make a positive impact and foster meaningful connections within the dental community. Overall, my diverse leadership background has allowed me to expand my reach and connect with fellow students through a variety of outlets. I am confident that my experiences have prepared me to excel in future leadership roles and make a significant contribution to the dental profession.

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

As dental students, we are deeply concerned about two critical issues: student loan debt and licensure. I vividly recall my experience at Lobby Day, where I passionately advocated for the REDI Act. This legislation aimed to shed light on dental students' aspirations to provide the best possible care to their patients, while also acknowledging the challenges imposed by overwhelming student debt. It was an inspiring opportunity to voice our concerns and advocate for change. Looking ahead to this year's Lobby Day, our focus has shifted towards the pursuit of a universal license exam. This initiative seeks to establish a standardized examination process that would enable dental professionals to obtain their licenses more seamlessly across different jurisdictions. By streamlining the licensure process, we hope to

enhance collaboration and mobility within the dental community, ultimately benefiting both practitioners and patients alike. It is encouraging to witness the dental community come together to address these pressing issues. As future dental professionals, it is our responsibility to contribute to meaningful changes that will positively impact our profession. Through continued advocacy, collaboration, and engagement, we can strive for a future where student loan debt is more manageable and licensure barriers are reduced. In conclusion, the issues of student loan debt and licensure are of utmost importance to dental students. Lobby Day serves as a platform for us to advocate for change and work towards solutions that will shape our profession for the better.