

Canidate Name: Allison Tempel

How do you work with or lead a team?

Growing up in a close military family, I have been surrounded by many mentors who have inspired me to serve in the military and contribute to the important mission of ASDA. In leadership roles, I try to understand peoples' needs as well as what inspires them in order to develop the trust needed to influence change. Leaders that truly care and serve selflessly have influenced my leadership philosophy greatly. My goal is to always find ways to adapt to different situations, treat everyone with dignity and respect, and fulfill my obligations. These are all things that I believe I encompass in all organizations I have been a part of. I have held an assortment of leadership positions and have continued to grow my leadership skills with each position I was granted. As a district trustee, I would build a cabinet based off trust and integrity, while working on building relationships with other teams. Organizations are only as strong as their members and my goal is always to allow members to contribute and grow as leaders by delegating tasks and encouraging active participation. I know that not only would I bring my pre-existing leadership skills to this position, but I would be able to enhance them if given the opportunity. I want to be able to take my teams strengths and weaknesses and through teamwork and collaboration make our weaknesses our strengths. Each of us has something unique to offer and together is where we find success.

What leadership experiences have equipped you for the District Trustee role?

Leadership is always something I have been passionate about and something that has been instilled in me since a young age. While I was in college, I had the opportunity to help start and eventually lead a Pre-Dental Society as President. After college I was able to work inter professionally as the student lead on a school-based telehealth project in a rural county in North Carolina focusing on tele dentistry. In my first two years of dental school, I chose to get more involved with ASDA at a local, district and national level. I have held three positions locally, currently serve as Chief of Staff of the District 4 Cabinet and previously the secretary and work nationally as the state licensure liaison for North Carolina. While being the Chief of Staff of our district I worked closely with our Trustee and each of the members on our cabinet to ensure success and overcome any hardships we might have been faced with. On top of ASDA, I have been granted the opportunity to be the President of my dental school class. In all of these positions I have found that it takes a whole team to be successful. It takes being able to properly delegate positions, build trust amongst one another and maintain good communication. I have witnessed my leadership succeed and I have also learned from outcomes that were not as good as I hoped.

Why are you interested in the District Trustee role and what do you hope to accomplish in this position?

Throughout my experiences with ASDA, I have continued to develop a newfound passion with each opportunity. From experiencing this organization as a pre-dental student to serving on the District Cabinet, I have continually found myself wanting to learn and do more. As Chief of Staff, and previously secretary, I was able to see the teamwork that happened among our different teams and was able to help out each team in various ways. Seeing and learning more about each position within our cabinet gave me the sense that I could help lead our district as trustee. Something that I believe would benefit our district is to have more comradery between our eight schools. I have always been a firm believer in

making your weaknesses your strengths. I believe that by learning more about each school, and the students that attend them, we could better the dental school experience and enhance our knowledge and interest in the field. I would work with the other Trustees to continue to advocate for all dental students and give a voice to those that are often not heard. As a newer dental school, I would be honored to represent ECU for the second time since 2016 as the District 4 Trustee. Just like LaJoi Wiggins, our former Trustee from ECU, said “the policies put in place today will affect dental students for years to come.” Our voices matter and I hope to be able to drive not only our organization but our members to new heights.

What are 2-3 issues important to dental students?

Through ASDA we have a platform and a voice to help better our education and that of future students. However, there are multiple things that remain a concern to most dental students. Some of these include licensure reform, student debt, and barriers to care. Licensure reform is something that affects all of us but is determined by each state individually. One of the current issues pertaining to licensure reform is that of a non-patient-based board exam. I am currently on a licensure task force that includes students from each state that has not accepted these non-patient licensure alternatives. We are working with our state dental boards, dental societies, and our schools to make this change. Dental student debt is another issue for dental students. The average dental student debt in 2020 was over \$300,000. ASDA is working diligently to help reduce interest rates, provide better refinancing opportunities, and allocating for more loan forgiveness, scholarships, and tax deductions. Lastly, barriers to care are another key issue that we as students can help address. As an MPH student, this was something that I was very passionate about and ultimately helped my decision to attend a dental school that’s mission aims to help reduce barriers to care for the people of North Carolina. In NC, 98 out of 100 counties are considered dental HPSA designations and there are over 6,000 within the US as of 2020. As an organization we are working hard to help educate, implement and address these barriers