

Canidate Name: Jake Cantrell

How do you work with or lead a team?

My experience as a dental student has taught me the importance of balancing leadership with active participation, fostering a culture of mutual support and shared achievement. My practical and steadfast approach allows me to set realistic objectives, while my innovative nature drives me to explore new ideas and solutions. I believe in brainstorming sessions as a platform for creativity, encouraging team members to think outside the box and propose fresh concepts. As a leader, I prioritize the professional and personal development of each team member. I seek to identify their potential and invest time in mentoring them, building their confidence and skills for future leadership roles. This approach not only strengthens the team but also contributes to the broader community by preparing competent and compassionate leaders. Furthermore, I am hands-on and involved, preferring to lead by example. Whether it's supporting others in their tasks or being physically present at events, I ensure that I am accessible and approachable. My aim is to build a team where each member is empowered to take initiative, contribute effectively, and grow both as an individual and as part of the collective. Together, we strive not just for the success of our projects but for the growth of each team member.

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

Throughout my journey with ASDA, I have embraced leadership roles at the chapter, district, and national levels. My engagement began in my first year, where I joined the fundraising committee at HSDM, developing my skills in organizing events and building relationships with sponsors. This experience provided me with a deep understanding of the operational aspects of ASDA and the importance of effective communication and teamwork. As I progressed to more prominent roles, such as Chapter President and National ASDA Contributing Editor, I gained invaluable insights into strategic planning and the execution of large-scale initiatives. I revamped my chapter's Pre-Dental Conference and significantly expanded our community outreach programs which enhanced our chapter's impact and visibility. In my role as District 1 Political Advocacy Chair, I advocated for dental student and professional interests and had the opportunity to help with Question 2 which spread across the country. These varied roles have not only honed my leadership skills but also provided me with a comprehensive perspective of ASDA's objectives. My experiences have equipped me with the unique ability to navigate and lead effectively at trustee.

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

I'm interested in District Trustee because I think it will build upon my previous ASDA experiences and will allow me to make a meaningful impact in my final year of dental school. This position represents a natural progression for me, allowing me to leverage my accumulated skills and insights to effect lasting changes. One of my most favorite aspects of ASDA has been the connections and friendships I've made from the first year of school to now. As Trustee, I aim to promote opportunities for others to form new networks just as I have and foster a culture of collaboration and mutual support. My primary goal is to enhance professional development and community service within the district. I envision reshaping our annual events to focus more on developing skills and competencies that are essential for future clinicians and leaders, not just in New England but on a global scale. This reorientation towards

professional growth and community involvement will ensure that our activities are not only enriching but also align with the evolving landscape of dental practice and leadership.

What are 2-3 issues important to dental students?

The financial burden of dental education can be overwhelming, and it significantly impacts the future choices and opportunities of graduates. As a District Trustee, my role would include advocating for financial literacy and support. I aim to provide resources and workshops that help students navigate loan management, budgeting, and financial planning. This guidance will be crucial in empowering students to make informed decisions about their finances both during their education and after graduation. Secondly, there's an essential need to enhance practical, hands-on experience in dental education. Theoretical knowledge forms the foundation, but the application of this knowledge in real-world scenarios is what truly prepares students for their future roles as dentists. I plan to focus on initiatives that bridge the gap between classroom learning and clinical application, particularly for first- and second-year dental students. This could involve coordinating workshops and seminars at district events that give students a taste of actual dental practice, thus enhancing their clinical skills and confidence. I also aim to attract more technology-focused vendors to our fairs and business expos, creating opportunities for students to engage directly with the forefront of dental technology. Additionally, I want to inspire students to contribute to the body of knowledge in our field by writing articles and participating in new research. This involvement not only broadens their understanding but also positions them as trailblazers in embracing and contributing to the latest advancements in dental practice