

Canidate Name: Kristen Johnson

How do you work with or lead a team?

My leadership style is very collaborative. I believe it's necessary to hear all team member's viewpoints and decisions before a group decision can be made. Finding a solution that represents each member, or at least a majority opinion, ensures that each member feels heard. I find this method helps me make decisions that benefit the group best. However, I am not afraid to voice my opinion if it is different from others. I like to share my side of the story, but not use my sole opinions when leading because I believe that good leaders are people who represent the interests and ideas of the group. In leading a cabinet as NYU ASDA Chapter President, I hold a monthly board meeting where each position shares a slide with past and future event plans. I think this style of meeting is very helpful so everyone on the team can visualize each other's plans and goals. I think this would be a great idea to incorporate into the District Cabinet meetings.

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

I currently hold the leadership positions of NYU's ASDA Chapter President and ASDA District 2 Events Chair. I believe that these two positions are the perfect combination for the Trustee role. As NYU ASDA President, I oversee a cabinet of 29 board members. I am very familiar with running a large board and making sure everyone is involved and carrying their weight. I organized multiple events including educational and social events, but I also delegate events to different chairs. My presidential experience will help me manage the district cabinet, but my Events Chair role will be directly applicable to the responsibilities of Trustee. I worked closely with this year's Trustee Shiv in planning our District 2 Meeting. I understand all of the details and components that go into making the meeting a success. I played a large role in submitting RFP's, scouting venues, and organizing day of logistics. I am eager to take what I loved from the conference and areas we could improve on into next year's planning. I also developed organizational and communication skills through my past event planning experience that I believe will be extremely applicable. In undergrad, I co-founded TEDxBostonCollege through achieving event licensure from TEDx and organized the inaugural event at my college. In planning this large-scale event, I led a team of two dozen students and oversaw all legal aspects to ensure compliance with TEDx rules and regulations

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

I am interested in the District Trustee position because ASDA has been the most pivotal part of my dental school experience. Before I joined ASDA, I had no idea the world of organized dentistry existed and was ignorant of all of its benefits. But being a part of ASDA has allowed me to grow as a leader, advocate, and a future practitioner. As a D1 I was the Pre-dental Chair, D2 Legislative Liaison, and now as a D3 I'm chapter president and District Events Chair. My goal as Trustee and the primary reason I'm applying for the position is because I want my peers to benefit from all the organization has to offer. I hope to play a key role in organizing the District Meeting and other events for our school's to collaborate together. District 2 is very lucky in that fact that 5/6 of our schools are located within 1-2 hours from each other. I want to capitalize on this by organizing more in person events between the schools beyond the District Meeting. I also plan on continuing with zoom events and finding more ways for our farther schools to participate. I'm currently organizing a spring social for District 2 ASDA members so they can

grow their relationships from previous events and meet new members. I hope to create a District Cabinet that is diverse in positions, so that there is an event for everyone no matter their interests of continuing ed, advocacy, leadership, wellness, outreach, networking, or mentorship.

What are 2-3 issues important to dental students?

I believe that the most important issue to dental students is student debt. As a student at NYU, one of the most expensive dental schools with a tuition of 100K, I understand firsthand how important this issue is and how much it affects my peers. Student debt is not a future issue when payments are due, it is a current problem for my peers and I've noticed how it already affects student's decision making. Some of my peers are interested in specialties, but do not feel they can pursue them because they need to start making money immediately to pay off their massive debt. Students cannot afford the time or money to pursue further education after dental school and I believe this is a problem that will have massive repercussions on the future of dentistry. This issue is why I became passionate about advocacy and decided to serve as my chapter's legislative liaison and represent my peers at last year's Lobby Day. Another important issue to dental students is licensure. Licensure is a very state specific issue, and because of this it is one that confuses students as they try to navigate the nuances. Related to this, the licensure exam has recently switched to a mannequin exam. Performing the licensure exam on live patients created many ethical dilemmas, including delaying treatment until the exam. An important role of Trustee is educating members on current advocacy initiatives and giving them a voice and method to advocate