

Canidate Name: Nitish Aggarwal

How do you work with or lead a team?

I work with or lead a team through collaboration and open-mindedness because it allows everyone to voice their opinions and ideas, hear others' ideas, and get feedback about their ideas and opinions as well. Being able to collaborate with others is a strength of mine. I was a member of the Health Occupations Students of America in high school. We found ways to fundraise for trips and plan local community service events to teach the community about health issues affecting our community and ways to positively impact each other and the communities around us. As I lead my team or work with others, being open-minded allows for sharing ideas and opinions about communicating with the community about adverse health issues. I have listened to concerns from the community and created a website where the local community can ask questions and receive answers about basic oral health care. A referral to the University of Detroit Mercy's Dental School was made for complex oral health questions. We hoped to hear the concerns, provide them with insightful responses, and positively impact them. One last example is that during my undergraduate education, I was the founder of TEDxDetroit Mercy, where I oversaw the starting and building up of an entire organization from the ground up. I had to work with multiple teams, vendors, faculty, and students from my university to help plan and scale a TEDx Talk event at my school while complying with all the TEDx rules and regulations.

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

I completed my undergraduate education at the University of Detroit Mercy. During my undergraduate education, I served in the following leadership roles. President – University of Detroit Mercy Pre-Dental Student Association (2017-2021) President - University of Detroit Mercy Undergraduate National Student Dental Association (2018-2021) Vice President - University of Detroit Mercy Undergraduate National Student Dental Association (2017) President and Co-Founder –TEDxDetroit Mercy for four years (2018-2022) Research Assistant - University of Detroit Mercy Biology Department for four years (2017-2021) Project Manager -TWAI (Travel World Automation Incorporated) for five years (2016-2021) As President of the Pre-Dental Student Association and the Undergraduate National Student Dental Association, I raised over \$35,000 for our organizations. We used the funds to give back to the local communities in the Detroit area. We planned community outreach events, provided toothbrushes, toothpaste, and floss, and reviewed oral hygiene instructions. We provided nutrition counseling to increase awareness of the importance of oral health and encouraged them to visit the dentist regularly for any oral concerns. I was the Project Manager at TWAI for five years. I led multiple projects and worked with multiple teams in the organization. I used communication and collaboration to ensure that all the teams worked cohesively, our client's timelines were met, and the products met the needs and requests of our clients, for which they were designed using the highest security and technological standards.

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

As a candidate for the District 4 Trustee position of the American Student Dental Association (ASDA), I am committed to upholding the highest standards of accountability and professionalism within our organization. Our association must stay dedicated to the well-being of our profession, students, and members. I am here to help inspire District 4 in order to reach our goals together. In this role, I hope to

inspire and lead District 4 to reach its goals in supporting and enriching the education of dental students as the leading student dental organization in the country. My goal as District Trustee is to work collaboratively with all dental schools and organizations within District 4, as well as with the other District Trustees, to engage and support the membership of ASDA at all levels and to help students understand the value of ASDA as a supplement to their education and a pathway to a successful dental career. I may be a new member of ASDA as I am one of the inaugural class members of the newly created Lincoln Memorial University College of Dental Medicine in Knoxville, Tennessee but I believe that due to all of these experiences that I have been a part of throughout my undergraduate education and life thus far are to prove and show to you that I am ready to lead District 4 ASDA into its best possible year yet as its District Trustee!

What are 2-3 issues important to dental students?

Issue #1 - Licensure Reform -This issue is very important because in order to get initial dental licensure, this is done by performing an exam on live human subjects, which is a high stakes one-shot testing scenario that brings up a lot of different and various ethical, reliability and validity concerns .Issue #2 - Barriers to Care -This issue is also very important because many different barriers to care to prevent people from receiving adequate oral health care and medical healthcare in general. These common barriers include Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA) in the United States, where there are shortages of dentists and other healthcare providers. In these HPSA areas, dental students and current and past dentists should participate in efforts to impact public oral health, including initiatives, education, internships, externships, and outreach to underserved populations. And support evidence-based measures such as early intervention, Medicaid expansion, and co-location of health services, all of which will help reduce the barriers to care in underserved communities. Issue #3 - Dental School Debt - This issue is a top priority because the growing student debt crisis directly impacts the number of people who can become dentists. This is because dental students have one of the highest amounts of debt per graduating senior, over \$300,000. This burden can be reduced by reducing the interest rates on student loans and providing opportunities for loan forgiveness, scholarships, grants, and tax deductibility