

Canidate Name: Tyler Jennes

How do you work with or lead a team?

As a leader, I take pride in my ability to recognize the strengths of individual team members and assign tasks based on their unique skills and passions. I firmly believe that a job is more likely to be completed successfully when the person executing it is genuinely invested in it. Leading by example is a cornerstone of my leadership style – I am willing and able to undertake any task, including the mundane ones that may be less appealing. I believe that if I expect my team to perform certain responsibilities, I must demonstrate my willingness to do the same. However, I also understand the importance of delegation. While leading by example is crucial, I recognize that effective leadership involves empowering team members and trusting them with responsibilities. I believe in creating a collaborative environment where each team member feels a sense of ownership and responsibility for the team's success. By striking a balance between leading by example and delegating tasks appropriately, I aim to foster a motivated and cohesive team dedicated to achieving common goals.

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

My experiences as the IASDA President-Elect have uniquely equipped me for the District Trustee role. In this capacity, I closely collaborate with the current chapter president and vice president, playing a pivotal role in conducting one of the most active ASDA chapters in the country. This position requires constant communication with chapter chairs to organize various events, such as the annual vendor fair, loupes fair, Prophecy Cup fundraiser, ASDA Fever Week, and weekly Lunch Learns, among others. Through these responsibilities, I have gained a deep understanding of ASDA's values and objectives. The diverse range of events has provided me with valuable insights into enhancing chapter engagement and participation. This experience has not only familiarized me with the intricacies of running a successful ASDA chapter but has also positioned me to develop and implement policies at the district level that can amplify engagement and participation across chapters. I am enthusiastic about leveraging this knowledge to contribute meaningfully to the District Trustee role.

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

I am deeply interested in the District Trustee role because of my profound passion for organized dentistry, which has grown exponentially since my first ASDA conference in my first year. My commitment strengthened after attending Annual Session last year, where I witnessed fellow students actively engaging in proposing, voting on, and debating policies and positions crucial to the organization. The power of collective action became evident to me, and I realized the significant impact that organized dentistry can have on shaping the future of dental students. I am driven by the belief that there is strength in numbers, and ASDA, with its extensive representation, provides a platform for students' voices to be heard and for real change to occur. My primary goal in the District Trustee role is to introduce as many students as possible to the transformative potential of organized dentistry. I aim to raise awareness about the benefits that active participation in ASDA can bring to students, their future profession, and ultimately, to our future patients. By fostering greater involvement in ASDA, my broader vision is to enhance ADA membership and overall participation, contributing to a stronger and more united dental community.

What are 2-3 issues important to dental students?

Two critical issues that resonate deeply with dental students are student debt and the cost of dental education, as well as licensure reform. The burden of student debt is a pervasive concern among pre-doctoral members, and while discussions about addressing this issue have been ongoing, concrete solutions are yet to be realized. While proposed legislation addressing loan interest for specialty residents is a positive step, there is an urgent need for a comprehensive approach to alleviate the immense debt faced by many pre-doctoral members. Licensure reform is another pressing matter for dental students. Many students advocate for changes such as moving away from testing on live human subjects and facilitating easier interstate practice. The desire for reform reflects a collective aspiration to streamline and modernize the licensure process, making it more accessible and relevant to the evolving landscape of dental practice. Addressing these issues is not only vital for the well-being of dental students but also for the future of the dental profession. As a District Trustee, I am committed to actively engaging in discussions and advocating for tangible solutions to alleviate student debt and advance licensure reform, ensuring a more supportive and accessible environment for dental students.