

## **Honesty Boone, Los Angeles '27**

### **How do you work with or lead a team?**

I believe in servant leadership: listening first, working alongside team members, and ensuring everyone feels empowered. When a natural disaster impacted our city at the start of a new quarter, classmates faced sudden uncertainty. As Class President, I sought to provide clarity, support, and a reliable point of contact.

Our executive cabinet met to understand classmates' needs, including questions about academic expectations, access to resources, and ways to stay informed. Using this feedback, we developed a coordinated plan for sharing updates, gathering questions, and relaying concerns to faculty. We communicated consistently, ensured information was accurate and timely, and made sure no one's needs were overlooked.

Through this process, our team aligned around a shared goal, resolving conflicts, addressing concerns, and adapting to changing circumstances together. Every step required collaboration, careful listening, and mutual support. Afterward, I asked for feedback as their insights helped me refine my approach, stay agile, and foster a culture of growth and continuous improvement.

I aim to value everyone's perspective, work alongside others as an engaged team member, and foster an environment where people feel empowered. By combining clear communication, empathy, and collaboration, I help ensure our team can respond effectively to challenges while moving forward together.

### **What leadership experiences have equipped you for the role of President/Vice President?**

My leadership journey in dental school began when I was elected Class President as a first-year student and re-elected in my second year. In this role, I learned to lead through teamwork and adaptability, ensuring every classmate felt heard and represented. Guiding my peers through academic challenges and unexpected changes taught me how to provide clarity and support in uncertain situations.

I also became involved with ASDA at the chapter level as a class representative, helping increase member engagement by connecting students to professional development opportunities and promoting chapter initiatives. At the district level, I served as Secretary, supporting the executive board in planning leadership retreats and executing district-wide initiatives. These experiences strengthened my skills in team coordination, communication, and organizing events that serve all chapters.

Currently, I serve as District 13 Trustee, representing five dental schools in California and Nevada. I am part of the ASDA Board of Trustees, the Council on Advocacy, and the American

Dental Association's Council on Government Affairs. Through these roles, I have gained insight into governance, learned to advocate effectively, and developed strategic thinking while keeping our collective need as dental students at the forefront.

Across these experiences, I have learned to lead with empathy, intention, and collaboration. Having worked with ASDA at the local, district, and national levels, I am prepared to bring this perspective to guide the association forward.

**What are 2-3 issues important to dental students and/or the position of president?**

Nearly 80% of dental graduates leave school with more than \$312,000 in debt, and with the \$200,000 federal borrowing cap taking effect in 2026, financial strain may increase. Rising tuition increasingly shapes where we practice, which specialties we pursue, and how we serve patients. These pressures limit access to the profession and affect patients' access to care. Making dental education more affordable and advancing loan reform must be core advocacy priorities to keep the path to dentistry accessible. Uncertainty after graduation is another issue relevant to the dental student experience. Students ask whether they will have job security, whether they should pursue a residency, and what the job market will look like as healthcare evolves. These challenges highlight the need for access to education, exposure to career opportunities, and patient care for every community we serve. I am committed to strengthening initiatives so we can enter the profession prepared, supported, and ready to serve diverse populations. Student wellness is equally essential. Without it, we cannot fully engage in our education or care for patients. As President, I will advance wellness efforts so student dentists not only complete dental school but thrive with the resources and support needed to prioritize their well-being.