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How do you work with or lead a team?

I believe effective leadership starts with service. My father taught me at a young age that a true leader is a servant first, and that value has shaped the way I work with teams. I lead by supporting others, listening before acting, and making sure every member feels valued and heard.

Collaboration is at the center of my leadership style. I don't believe in making decisions in isolation; I believe the best outcomes come when diverse perspectives come together. When everyone brings their strengths, experiences, and ideas to the table, it becomes almost impossible not to accomplish our goals.

As a leader, I focus on creating an environment where people feel comfortable sharing ideas, asking questions, and taking initiative. I aim to guide the team, not by directing from above, but by empowering others and removing barriers so they can succeed. By fostering open communication, shared purpose, and mutual respect, I help the team stay aligned and motivated.

Ultimately, I lead by serving, collaborating, and bringing people together around a common mission—ensuring that our collective potential is greater than what any one person could achieve alone.

What leadership experiences have equipped you for the Speaker of the House role?

My leadership journey has been shaped by roles that required organization, advocacy, and the ability to bring people together—qualities essential for the Speaker of the House. I previously served as the Speaker of the House during my undergraduate years at Florida Atlantic University, which gave me firsthand experience facilitating discussion, maintaining order, and ensuring that every voice was represented.

In dental school, I have continued to lead with purpose. I currently serve as the Advocacy Chair for District 4, where I help mobilize students, educate them on key issues, and amplify their concerns at higher levels. I have also served as my university's ASDA President for nearly two years, a role that strengthened my ability to guide teams, communicate clearly, and keep members aligned around a shared mission.

Beyond student leadership, my work as a film producer has uniquely prepared me for this role. Producing a movie means managing large teams, coordinating countless moving parts, and acting as the central voice that keeps everyone unified—much like the Speaker's responsibility

in a House of Delegates. It has taught me how to lead under pressure, resolve conflicts quickly, and maintain clarity even during complex projects.

Together, these experiences have equipped me with the confidence, structure, and communication skills needed to serve effectively as Speaker of the House.

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

1. Mental Health & Wellness

Dental school places intense academic, clinical, and emotional demands on students. High stress, burnout, and pressure to perform can impact both well-being and academic success. Ensuring that mental health resources are accessible, promoted, and destigmatized is essential. The Speaker plays a key role in elevating these conversations and giving students a platform to voice their needs.

2. Food Insecurity & Financial Strain

Many dental students quietly struggle with food insecurity due to the high cost of living, tuition, and long clinic hours that limit their ability to work. Ensuring that students have access to basic needs—including reliable nutrition—is foundational to their success. Advocating for supportive programs and bringing awareness to this issue helps create a healthier and more equitable learning environment.

3. Scope of Practice, Patient Safety & Bias Reduction

As states propose changes to dental scope of practice, it's crucial that patient safety remains the top priority. Students should be informed and involved in these discussions. Additionally, addressing implicit bias in dentistry is essential to improving patient outcomes and building trust, especially in underserved communities. The Speaker helps guide these debates, ensuring that all perspectives are heard and grounded in ethical, patient-centered decision making.

These issues reflect the heart of what dental students face—and what the Speaker must help lead.