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How do you work with or lead a team?

I lead teams through clear communication, strong organization, and consistent follow-through, especially in settings where everyone is managing demanding schedules. As a third-year dental student at Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry, I understand that effective leadership among busy peers requires prioritization, efficiency, and accountability. Results matter, and I focus on turning ideas into execution.

My leadership style has been shaped by roles that required both discipline and collaboration. As Vice President of Delta Gamma at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, I worked closely with multiple committees to coordinate initiatives, manage timelines, and keep committees aligned. That experience reinforced the importance of setting expectations, respecting others' time, and maintaining momentum even when workloads are heavy. My commitment to the sisterhood remains, as I now contribute to the postgraduate Nashville chapter.

In dental school, I identified a need for greater academic engagement and founded Meharry's Periodontology Interest Society during my second year. I now serve as President and have led the organization from concept to sustainability. Building it from the ground up required initiative, persistence, and the ability to bring people together around a shared purpose.

I am committed to advocacy and organized dentistry and have actively participated in ASDA efforts, including attending Lobby Day as a dental student. This gave me exposure to legislators, dentists, patients, constituents, and lobbyists who both shared and opposed ideas. As District 6 Trustee, I will bring a practical, action-focused approach, strengthening communication across schools and representing student concerns with clarity and consistency.

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

My leadership experiences have prepared me to serve as District 6 Trustee by combining initiative, collaboration, and results-focused action. I lead teams through clear communication, organization, and follow-through, even in high-demand environments where peers balance rigorous academics and clinical responsibilities. I focus on turning ideas into action while respecting others' time and maintaining accountability.

As Vice President of Delta Gamma at the University of Alabama, I coordinated multiple committees, managed initiatives, and kept teams aligned, lessons I continue to apply as I contribute to the postgraduate Nashville chapter. In dental school, I founded Meharry's Periodontology Interest Society during my second year and now serve as President, building an organization from the ground up to create lasting academic engagement.

I am also deeply committed to advocacy and organized dentistry. Serving as Legislative Liaison and Gold Crown Chair for Meharry's ASDA chapter, I helped lead initiatives that earned our school the 2024 Gold Crown Award and attended Lobby Day in Washington, D.C., advocating directly with legislators. In meetings with Tennessee Senator Blackburn and Governor Lee, I learned firsthand the importance of working with people who hold different viewpoints. Leading a district as large and diverse as District 6 requires both compromise and compassion.

Together, these experiences, leading teams, founding organizations, coordinating initiatives, and advocating at local and national levels, have equipped me to serve District 6 effectively. As Trustee, I will ensure all six schools are heard, represented, and empowered while fostering collaboration and advancing organized dentistry for the benefit of every student.

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

I am interested in serving as District 6 Trustee because I am passionate about advocacy, organized dentistry, and ensuring that all dental students have a strong voice in shaping the future of our profession. My experiences witnessing communities in both rural Pakistan and rural Tennessee that lack access to dental care have shown me the profound impact effective advocacy can have on people's lives. These experiences motivate me to ensure that students, regardless of background or school, are informed, represented, and empowered.

As Legislative Liaison and Gold Crown Chair for Meharry's ASDA chapter, and through attending Lobby Day in Washington, D.C., I have seen firsthand how organized, informed advocacy can influence policy and improve opportunities for dental students. Leading initiatives that earned Meharry the 2024 Gold Crown Award reinforced the importance of clear communication, collaboration, and follow-through. My perspective as a student at an HBCU strengthens my commitment to inclusive leadership and amplifying diverse voices across District 6. Ultimately, my interest stems from diverse groups coming together for a shared cause: access to dental care.

If elected Trustee, I aim to accomplish three key goals. First, I will educate students on critical issues, including student debt, loan repayment options under the "One Big Beautiful Bill," and policy changes affecting dental education. Second, I will strengthen communication between local chapters and national ASDA leadership to ensure student concerns are heard and addressed. Finally, I will foster collaborative, inclusive leadership across the district, ensuring that all voices, especially those from underserved communities, are represented.

What are 2-3 issues important to dental students?

The two most pressing issues facing dental students today are student debt and loan repayment, and effective representation within organized dentistry. This year, while serving as

legislative liaison, I attended state delegate meetings with the ADA President, Dr. Kessler, and was shown the prevalence of these issues.

Dental students graduate with significant debt, and recent changes under the “One Big Beautiful Bill” have created both opportunities and confusion. Many students are unsure how new repayment options, income-driven plans, or public service pathways will affect their long-term financial stability, specialty training, or early practice ownership. Clear guidance, education, and advocacy are crucial to enable students to make informed financial decisions and fully utilize these programs.

The second critical issue is ensuring strong, effective representation within organized dentistry. As a student at an HBCU, I have been inspired by the many leaders from diverse backgrounds who serve in influential roles. I bring that perspective to leadership, adding diversity of experience, thought, and advocacy to District 6. Students need leaders who listen, understand their concerns, and communicate them to national ASDA leadership and policymakers. My experiences attending Lobby Day, leading local initiatives, and founding Meharry’s Periodontology Interest Society have shown me how coordinated, inclusive leadership can amplify student voices and drive meaningful change.

As District 6 Trustee, I would focus on keeping students informed about loan repayment changes while advocating for inclusive representation, ensuring students across all six schools are supported, represented, and empowered to navigate the financial and professional challenges of dental school.