

## **Council on Professional Issues 2024-25 Annual Report**

### **Members**

Gabriela Hunter Rodriguez, LECOM '25, Chair  
Shivani Iyer, Pennsylvania '26, Associate  
Dominique Vickers, Tufts '26, Associate  
Michelle Chiang, Los Angeles '25, Board Liaison  
Sarah Murphy, ASDA Director of Membership, Staff Liaison

### **Mission**

The Council on Professional Issues serves the association as a resource on community engagement, dental outreach and other pandemic/epidemic implications that may arise. Additionally, the council is committed to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives among dental students.

### **Council business**

- **Connecting with Chapter Leaders**
  - The council focused on connecting regularly with chapter and district community service leaders via a GroupMe group chat.
  - The council hosted a webinar in September titled *Community Service at your Chapter Webinar: Ideas and Resources for Community Service Chairs*, to share information on the community service initiatives that will be happening throughout the year.
- **Community Builder of the Year Award**
  - The council reviewed nominations and selected a recipient for the National Community Builder of the Year Award. This award recognizes an outstanding ASDA leader dedicated to dental outreach and community service.
- **Dentistry in the Community Grant**
  - The council reviewed applications for the Dentistry in the Community Grant and selected five chapters to receive the \$500 grant. This chapter grant is intended to support ASDA chapters in coordinating a program or event that focuses on prevention of dental disease and/or promotion of oral health for any underserved population within the community.
- **Community Service How-To Guide**
  - The council reviewed the current Community Service How To Guide and made recommendations for changes and updates
  - The updated guide was published in February
- **D&I Week**
  - This year, the council was tasked with planning DEI Week in October 2024.
  - The Council hosted a webinar, D&I in Dentistry. During this webinar, attendees heard from a panel of dentists who are fostering inclusion in their practices and community.
  - Members and chapters who are cultivating welcoming environments were featured on ASDA's Instagram.
- **Service Month**
  - The council held ASDA's second annual Service Month in January 2025.
  - The theme was Growing in Service.

- The council hosted two Service Month webinars, *Service Above Self – Leading Through Community Service*, with Dr. Mai-Ly Duong, and a clinical community service webinar with Drs. Martha Forero, James Morrish, and Elbert Tom.
- Service Month offered three different levels of challenges:
  - Incisor-Level Individual Challenge: Individuals who signed up to receive information from a national or local volunteer organization were entered into a prize drawing.
  - Canine-Level Chapter Challenge: The chapter that collected the most items wins a custom award.
  - Molar-Level Chapter Challenge: Chapters were encouraged to hold community service events and post about the event on Instagram to be entered in a prize drawing.