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Q1

Select your chapter.

**Western University of Health Sciences College of Dental
Medicine, Pomona, CA**

Q2

Select your district

District 13

Q3

Your Name

Gabriela Salazar

Q4

Chapter Position

Marketing Director

Q5

Your Email

gabriela.salazar@westernu.edu

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Q6

Describe one member engagement and value event or chapter member benefit program aimed at increasing member engagement and value. *This excludes the submission of multiple events that are part of a single week-long or month-long challenge e.g., the discussion of various events during a chapter's Fever Week. (250 word limit. Responses longer than 250 words will be cut.)

We kicked off the school year with our high-energy General Body Meeting, "What is ASDA?," drawing over 200 students. This event was the perfect platform to unveil our chapter's new theme: "Glow Up! Rise! Shine! Inspire!" While D1 and IDP students were introduced to ASDA's tripartite structure and benefits, the true value lay in connecting these resources to personal growth. We utilized the theme to illustrate the member journey: urging students to "Glow Up" by using ASDA resources to become confident clinicians, and to "Rise" by accepting leadership challenges with purpose. Current board members shared testimonials demonstrating how active membership allows students to "Shine" as professional examples and "Inspire" their peers. For returning D2-D4 students, this narrative reignited their passion and fostered a sense of community. By framing the presentation around this empowering motif, we moved beyond simple information sharing to genuine engagement. The event set a definitive tone for the year, ensuring every member felt ready to pursue growth, collaboration, and pride in our shared accomplishments.

Q7

Describe one chapter community service event that creates connections with our communities. *This excludes the submission of multiple events that are part of a single week-long or month-long challenge (250 word limit. Responses longer than 250 words will be cut.)

This year, our ASDA chapter's primary community outreach experience was participating in the San Gabriel Pomona Regional Center's Sirens of Silence event. This sensory friendly event was created to support children with special needs and their families, and it gave our members a meaningful opportunity to serve a community that often faces barriers to dental care. At this event, our D1 and D2 students worked closely with patients and their families through interactive activities focused on oral hygiene instruction and dietary counseling. Students used games, visuals, and hands on demonstrations to teach brushing habits and nutrition in a way that was engaging and appropriate for each child's needs. These interactions helped our younger members develop confidence in patient communication while learning how to be patient, flexible, and compassionate when working with individuals with special needs. Our D3 and D4 students provided free dental screenings for children attending the event. They assessed oral health status, answered caregiver questions, and helped identify areas that would benefit from follow up care. This allowed upper class students to apply their clinical knowledge in a community setting while providing a valuable service to families who may not otherwise have access to dental evaluations. Most importantly, this experience went beyond providing free care. It helped our members become more aware, comfortable, and prepared to treat patients with special needs in their future practices. Sirens of Silence reinforced our chapter's commitment to service, inclusion, and learning through community engagement.

Q8

Describe one chapter advocacy event that educates and involves members in ASDA's advocacy and legislative priorities. *This excludes the submission of multiple events that are part of a single week-long or month-long challenge (250 word limit. Responses longer than 250 words will be cut.)

On November 5th, our chapter successfully bridged the gap between students and state-level policy by hosting the CDA x ASDA Advocacy Lunch & Learn. We were honored to feature a distinguished panel including Dr. Martinez, CDA President, along with Mr. Lawrence Gayden and Mrs. Katie Fornelli from the California Dental Association. This interactive session was designed to educate members on current legislative priorities and the vital structure of organized dentistry. Dr. Martinez and the guests provided a "behind-the-scenes" look at how policy is formed, emphasizing that advocacy is essential to protecting our future profession. Beyond education, the event actively involved members by highlighting the power of student voices. The panel outlined specific pathways for students to create lasting impact, transforming advocacy from an abstract concept into an actionable leadership opportunity. By connecting students directly with these influential leaders, we inspired attendees to embrace their roles as advocates and demonstrated that even as students, they hold the power to shape the future of dentistry.

Q9

Describe one chapter wellness event that educates members and involves members in ASDA's Five Dimensions of Wellness. *This excludes the submission of multiple events that are part of a single week-long or month-long challenge (250 word limit. Responses longer than 250 words will be cut.)

One chapter wellness event that educated and actively engaged members in ASDA's Five Dimensions of Wellness was Bachata Night, hosted during our September Wellness Week in collaboration with the Hispanic Student Dental Association. This event invited students to step away from academic stress and participate in a guided bachata dance lesson led by a professional instructor. Bachata Night supported physical wellness by encouraging movement, coordination, and cardiovascular activity in a fun and accessible way. It promoted emotional wellness by offering stress relief and creating a joyful environment where students could relax and recharge. The event fostered social wellness by bringing together students from different classes and backgrounds, strengthening connections through shared participation and teamwork. By celebrating bachata during Hispanic Heritage Month, the event also emphasized cultural and spiritual wellness, encouraging appreciation for diverse traditions and identities within our dental school community. This collaborative event reflected our chapter's commitment to inclusivity and holistic well-being. Bachata Night created a welcoming environment where students felt supported, represented, and encouraged to engage in wellness practices that honor both mental health and cultural identity. The success of the event demonstrated how wellness initiatives can be both educational and meaningful while strengthening community within ASDA.

Q10

Describe one chapter event that develops professional and leadership skills of chapter members. (250 word limit. Responses longer than 250 words will be cut.)

Our chapter revolutionized professional development by launching the ASDA Business Symposium: The Dental MBA Business Series, a transformative event designed to turn dental students into future industry leaders. We recognized that while our members are becoming clinical experts, they often lack the crucial business acumen required to lead successful practices. To bridge this gap, we hosted an immersive, high-energy symposium on November 8th at the Western Hills Country Club, providing a full day of expert mentorship that the standard curriculum simply cannot match. Guided by elite industry advisors, attendees engaged in a deep dive into the pillars of entrepreneurship. Sessions empowered students to craft personal vision and mission statements, the bedrock of effective leadership, while mastering the strategic art of due diligence and practice acquisition. We even covered how to design a dream facility and maximize revenue on a tight budget, ensuring our members become fiscally literate leaders. Crucially, the excitement did not end at 5 PM. We ignited a longitudinal leadership challenge where participants must now synthesize these strategies into a comprehensive "future practice" business plan. These aspiring CEOs are currently preparing to pitch their visions in March, competing for cash prizes and top honors. This competition actively develops critical soft skills like public speaking, strategic planning, and persuasive communication. By investing in this "Dental MBA," we are not just training dentists; we are empowering a new generation of confident, business-savvy owners ready to lead the profession forward.

Q11

Describe one chapter communication (such as an enewsletter, the chapter website, or chapter social media campaign) that keeps members informed about ASDA. (250 word limit. Responses longer than 250 words will be cut.)

Our ASDA Newsletter Editors were instrumental in continuing the legacy of our marvelous On the Cusp publication, delivering two standout editions that kept our members engaged and informed. In the spring, we published the dazzling finale of Volume IX, "Lights! Camera! Action!", celebrating our chapter's prestigious ASDA Gold Crown award. This issue amplified the voices of members who attended Annual Session and Lobby Day while fostering inclusivity through meaningful features on Mental Health Awareness and Autism Acceptance Month. We prioritized student well-being with engaging Wellness content like tooth trivia, curated study playlists, and fresh springtime recipes and celebrated our outgoing Class of 2025 and expressed deep gratitude for the fruitful efforts of our 2024-2025 General Board. Carrying this electric momentum into the new academic year, we proudly welcomed Volume X with our Fall 2025 issue, officially launching our "Glow Up: Rise! Shine! Inspire!" era. This dynamic edition introduced our new General Board and covered our annual "ASDA Fever Week." We greeted the Class of 2029 with a taco lunch, advocacy sessions, and exclusive ASDA goodies. Beyond recruitment, the issue highlighted our vibrant community spirit with recaps of the 2nd Annual Pickleball Tournament and our restorative "Paint & Sip" wellness social. By featuring personal spotlights on pre-clinical faculty like Dr. Divakaran and clinical faculty like Dr. Alarcon, as well as students from the D1 through D4 classes, this newsletter reinforced our chapter's unwavering commitment to both professional growth and personal connection, proving that our members are truly ready to "glow up" together.

Q12

Respondent skipped this question

Upload the communication piece your chapter described in the communications category as a PDF or link below.

Q13

Add your communication piece link below.

<https://heyzine.com/flip-book/5341361b27.html>

Q14

Submit your chapter's YouTube video link.

https://youtu.be/JGjt_H5nZek

Q15

Submit your chapter's Google Drive or DropBox video link.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KZ4U-hmi7-xXMUfVTVIbx6CGm-J31gdw/view?usp=sharing>
