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Q1

Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health, Mesa, AZ

Select your chapter.

Q2

District 11

Select your district

Q3

Your Name

Blake Wichert

Q4

Chapter Position

Co-President

Q5

Your Email

sa211639@atsu.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.)

ATSU-ASDOH's 2025 Predental Day was one of the chapter's most impactful member engagement events of the year, bringing together over 60 predental students from across the region for a day of learning, mentorship, and hands-on experiences. Planned over months by ASDOH ASDA's Pre-Dental Committee, the event offered aspiring dental students a transparent and encouraging look into dental school while equipping them with tools to strengthen their applications. With the support of faculty and more than 30 ASDOH student volunteers, the event not only served predental attendees but also enhanced member engagement within the chapter. Dental students built leadership, teaching, and mentorship skills as they facilitated workshops, led tours, and guided hands-on activities in the simulation lab. Many volunteers shared that working with predental students reignited their own sense of purpose and pride in dentistry. Attendees participated in sessions covering DAT preparation, ADEA AADSAS application tips, and professionalism. Mock MMIs, group interviews, and an interview-attire fashion show helped students build confidence. In the sim lab, predental students practiced drilling and restoring typodont teeth - a favorite activity that created meaningful learning moments for both participants and mentors. Beyond academics, attendees toured campus, received professional headshots and shared In-N-Out lunch and boba with volunteers, fostering genuine connections. Overall, Predental Day delivered tremendous value: predental students left feeling more confident and inspired, while ASDOH ASDA members strengthened their leadership skills, engagement, and sense of community. The event stands as a strong example of what organized dentistry can achieve when students come together with purpose.

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.)

ASDOH ASDA's Back-to-School Drive was a meaningful community service initiative that demonstrated the chapter's commitment to supporting children and families in the Mesa area. This year, ASDOH came together to raise \$370 toward school supplies for Wilson Elementary School, a local Title I school serving approximately 500 students. The funds were used to purchase essential items - pencils, markers, notebooks, dry erase markers, hand sanitizer, paper towels, disinfecting wipes - supplies that help ensure students and teachers begin the school year prepared and confident. The drive not only benefited Wilson Elementary but also brought together ASDOH ASDA. Students contributed through donations, promotion, shopping, and delivery efforts. Volunteers shared that participating in the drive reminded them of the broader role dental professionals play in addressing social determinants of health, including access to education and basic resources. ASDOH ASDA's Community Service Committee members delivered the supplies directly to the school, where they had the opportunity to meet staff and learn more about the needs of the student population. This in-person connection reinforced the importance of community partnerships and inspired students to consider how small acts of service can have lasting impacts. For Wilson Elementary, the donation provided relief to teachers and families who often shoulder the cost of school supplies. For ASDOH students, the project offered a meaningful way to give back, build teamwork, and demonstrate leadership outside of the clinic. Overall, it highlighted ASDOH ASDA's dedication to service, equity, and community-centered care - values that continue to shape the chapter's culture and impact.

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.)

A.T. Still University's Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health (ATSU-ASDOH) proudly earned first place at the annual Pontics and Politics debate held on Saturday, October 18, 2025. The event brought together dental students from ATSU-ASDOH and Midwestern University's College of Dental Medicine-Arizona for a lively and intellectually engaging competition centered on key issues shaping the future of dentistry. 85 attendees gathered to support the teams and witness an afternoon of thoughtful discussion, professional dialogue, and student-driven advocacy. The idea behind Pontics & Politics is to challenge students to examine emerging policy concerns, analyze legislative trends, and thoughtfully articulate positions that influence patient care, public health, and professional standards. Additionally, it was an opportunity for students to strengthen essential skills in communication and leadership that will serve them in both clinical and community settings. Overall, ATSU-ASDOH achieved outstanding success, earning the title of Best Debate Team. Our very own Kylesh Sharma, D3, also received the award for Best Individual Debater. Events like Pontics and Politics highlight the vital role advocacy plays in the dental profession. By engaging with political topics early in our career, we learn how legislative action impacts access to care, oral health equity, and community well-being. Participation from dental students and dentists strengthen the profession's capacity to influence positive change and reinforces our commitment to improving the health of the communities we serve.

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.)

ASDOH ASDA's annual Prophy Cup is one of the chapter's most beloved health and wellness events, honoring the legacy of Dr. Timothy Lukavsky, who passed away from ALS in 2021. Dr. Lukavsky served as the Director of the Department of Special Care Dentistry at ATSU-ASDOH and dedicated his career to advancing care for individuals with special needs. Even after his diagnosis, he continued working at ASDOH for as long as his health allowed, inspiring students and colleagues with his resilience, compassion, and unwavering commitment to patient care. The Prophy Cup golf tournament, held this year at Apache Wells Country Club, brought together students, faculty, alumni, and community members for a day focused on wellness, camaraderie, and remembrance. Participants enjoyed an outdoor activity that promotes physical well-being while fostering connection among classes and encouraging self-care - an essential aspect of managing the demands of dental school. This year's event raised \$1,300 for the Arizona ALS Association, supporting research, patient services, and advocacy for individuals and families affected by ALS. Students expressed pride in contributing to a cause closely tied to the ASDOH community, and many reflected on how Dr. Lukavsky's legacy continues to influence the school's values, especially its commitment to compassionate and inclusive care. For ASDOH ASDA members, the Prophy Cup is more than a fundraiser - it serves as a meaningful reminder of the importance of empathy, wellness, and service. By honoring Dr. Lukavsky's life and supporting the ALS community, the event reinforces ASDOH's culture of kindness and collective purpose.

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.)

ASDOH ASDA's Lattes and Legislation event is one of the chapter's signature professional development and leadership programs, designed to foster thoughtful dialogue, ethical awareness, and community building among dental students. Held at a café, the event brought together 19 students and faculty to discuss real-world ethical dilemmas, professional responsibilities, and the moral challenges that arise in dentistry. With warm drinks in hand and a relaxed atmosphere, participants are encouraged to speak openly, reflect deeply, and learn from one another's perspectives. Each session focuses on topics that are highly relevant to modern dental practice such as balancing patient autonomy with clinical judgment, navigating financial pressures, understanding cultural humility, and maintaining wellness in high-stress environments. Faculty facilitators guide students through scenario-based discussions while prompting them to consider how professionalism extends beyond clinical competence and into character, empathy, and decision-making. For ASDOH students, Lattes and Legislation provides an invaluable space to develop leadership skills such as communication, active listening, and ethical reasoning. The event strengthens member engagement by allowing students from different cohorts to connect, share experiences, and build trust in a supportive environment. Many attendees express that these conversations help them feel more prepared for the complexities of patient care and more grounded in their personal values as future clinicians. By prioritizing reflection and dialogue, Lattes and Legislation reinforces ASDOH's commitment to training compassionate, thoughtful, and community-minded dental professionals. The event continues to serve as a meaningful reminder that strong clinical skills must be matched with moral clarity, professionalism, and humanity.

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.)

ASDOH ASDA's Lingual Groove continues to be one of the chapter's strongest pillars of member communication, storytelling, and community connection. As the official publication of the chapter, the Lingual Groove serves as a creative and reflective space where dental students can share their experiences, challenges, and growth as they prepare to enter the profession. This year's edition embraced the theme of slowing down, finding intention, and rediscovering meaning amid the fast pace of dental school - a message that resonated deeply with members. The magazine features a blend of student-written articles, artwork, photography, and personal narratives that highlight the holistic dental-school experience. From reflections on advocacy events and service projects to interviews with classmates about their passions outside of academics, the Lingual Groove showcases the diversity, resilience, and humanity within the ASDOH community. Stories that encourage self-care, creativity, and thoughtful connection - values that support members' mental and emotional well-being - were intentionally highlighted. The publication also encourages engagement by giving students multiple avenues to participate. Writers, photographers, and interviewees all contribute to shaping each issue. This collaborative process not only builds communication and leadership skills but also fosters a sense of belonging and shared purpose. The Lingual Groove is a reminder that students are not navigating the pressures of dental school alone. The magazine elevates voices that often go unheard and celebrates small acts of community, kindness, and reflection. By capturing the rhythm of dental student life, the Lingual Groove continues to bring meaning, connection, and authenticity to ASDOH ASDA's member communications.

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.

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Q14

Submit your chapter's YouTube video link.

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Q15

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

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