



Executive Committee Short Answer Questions - Tyler King, Missouri-Kirkville '19

1) *What leadership experiences have equipped you for this national role?*

When I began school at A.T. Still University (ATSU), the first leadership position that I competed for was the class presidency role. After a class vote, it turned out that I did not win the election and the position was filled by a classmate. Since this election, I have gone on to achieve leadership roles in multiple campus clubs and organizations including being elected Class President the following year, as well as acting as a very involved Student-Ambassador for the ATSU MOSDOH program. I believe this says a great deal about mental toughness and ability to persevere in the face of adversity. This is a skill that I first learned competing in athletics during undergraduate studies at the University of Nebraska. I have performed on the national level through Big 10 Conference tournament championships and even Regional playoffs in the NCAA tournament; I am confident of being able to relate many of the same principles to this national role. Through involvement in school clubs and activities, I also have many experiences that although have different objectives, contain the same overlying principle to promote aspects of health to the societies we live in. At this stage in my dental career, I do not provide comprehensive treatment for patients, but does that mean myself and classmates alike cannot make strides for overall health? With activities drawing participation from fellow classmates, we have targeted various populations including youth, elderly, and underserved individuals to educate and enhance an interest in oral health topics to surrounding communities. With the national role of ASDA President, I will continue these principles to improve the culture of oral health awareness and interest across the country.

2) *How do you work with or lead a team?*

Through my time as class president at ATSU, I have demonstrated ability to motivate my peers in order to provide successful events benefiting our local community. I display passion for our goals and help others feed on that energy to produce desired results. From teammates on the field to professional student peers in school, as a leader I demand a high level of production, but have never asked for anything that I would not do myself; and I think I am respected for this. Problem solving and achieving goals are things I live for, and believe more effective practices develop through forming partnerships. In order to form and maintain partnerships, I have developed skills to network with other like-minded leaders of the health community. When working with a team toward a desired goal, I ensure to bring along possible solutions forward when presenting the group with issues or barriers that develop. This acts to prompt a discussion toward solution rather than simply addressing that a problem exists.

3) *Why are you interested in this leadership position and what skills do you possess that would benefit the association?*

As students of the dental profession, we are continuously bringing new ideas and insight into the field. Each day at school brings a new topic to learn and along with it, more questions that I want to explore. The position of presidency requires a variety of skills including strong communication but willingness to listen to peers and help address concerns of ASDA members, and also provide support for routes to increasing knowledge of our student body. Sure, I possess many leadership skills, as do many other student dentists around the country, but what sets my personal skills apart is the strides I take to build up and enhance the learning process of students that I work with. I take learning the vast field of dentistry as an exciting realm of possibilities and find enjoyment in its many challenges to tackle. From my experiences, I can see it is young dental professionals that members of leadership from organizations, such as the ADA, want to communicate with to discover innovative ideas that propel the future and keep our field progressing. This coincides well with my development strategies as I am continuously learning proven techniques and practices toward patient care from leaders of the dental community that have more experience than myself. Experienced clinicians and young professionals alike, we can all learn from each other and I am looking forward to the opportunity to facilitate this process.

4) *What are 2-3 issues important to dental students and/or the position of president?*

Obtaining balance in the multifaceted field of dentistry is important, especially to students beginning the journey. It is important for our next President of ASDA to encourage and promote this concept to all student dentists. Discussing concerns with fellow students of ATSU, I believe a national ASDA program to promote self-education of basic business principles and management could be an effective and well utilized tool to provide. Furthermore, there are many young student dentists of ASDA that currently receive health insurance coverage through their parents' plans. How are these students going to work with and educate their patients on understanding their individual policy and devise a plan that works for that patient if student dentists do not understand it themselves? As ASDA leaders, we can advocate for student involvement in understanding health insurance coverage and how it relates to different groups of individuals. Another area of growing concern for students is loan debt. With some job experience as a loan services company representative, I will promote strategies for ASDA members to consider as graduation draws closer. For example, consolidating multiple education loans into one with aim to lower interest rates and make a single monthly payment. Student loans can be a daunting task for students to consider, but we as leaders can help ease the burden through education and awareness of the many programs offered to aid in the loan repayment process.