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Candidate for President/VP

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How do you work with or lead a team?

Serving as the ASDA District 7 Trustee greatly enhanced my ability to communicate, collaborate, and lead a team effectively. Before this role, I focused on completing tasks assigned individually and offering assistance to teammates when needed or available. However, as Trustee, I realized that carrying out the goals of a national organization and leading a large team with significant responsibilities requires a shift from individual task completion to thoughtful delegation and collaboration.

To foster efficiency, I conducted a comprehensive audit and review of each team position, clarifying role expectations and deliverables. Once interviewed, this provided my team with a clear understanding of their responsibilities from the outset, simplifying task delegation and follow-ups. These efforts not only streamlined workflows but also empowered team members to take ownership of their roles.

While I still value thoroughness and attention to detail, I've evolved to prioritize delegation, reinforcement, and encouragement. This leadership approach has allowed me to support my team more effectively while ensuring that every member feels motivated and appreciated. By combining structure with empowerment, I've cultivated a productive and cohesive environment that delivers results.

What leadership experiences have equipped you for the role of President/Vice President?

My experience as an ASDA District 7 Trustee has been pivotal in preparing me for the role of President/Vice President. Serving on the Board of Trustees has provided me with a deep understanding of ASDA's structure, from the local to district, to national levels, and the strategic foresight guiding the organization. This role has also afforded me appointments to ASDA National and ADA Council positions, offering a comprehensive perspective on the organization's mission and operations.

During my tenure, I've immersed myself in ASDA policy, governance, and critical terminology, equipping me to address pivotal issues and represent ASDA confidently. I've had the privilege of researching, discussing, and advocating for important topics at conferences, in board meetings, and with stakeholders. These experiences have shaped me into a strategic and effective leader, aligned with ASDA's goals.

Additionally, my leadership journey began at Purdue University, where I served as a Boiler Gold Rush Team Leader. My efforts earned me the MVP distinction among over 500 leaders, leading to a supervisory role in the North America's top welcome week program. As a Resident Assistant, I co-led a community of 112 first-year students, achieving national recognition twice under the National Residence Hall Honorary for our programming. These roles honed my ability to lead collaboratively and manage diverse teams, skills I continue to apply in ASDA leadership.

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

A. The relentless demands of dental school present astonishing workloads to which students must juggle to be successful. From being tasked to learn material from eight different courses, adhering to project deadlines from three other courses, and also stacking patient interaction in the mix are easy stressors for burnout, depression, and poor mental health upkeep. While we acknowledge the necessity for "grit" in dental education, there exists a concern regarding the imposition of unhealthy and impractical expectations causing the grace and due credit for our endeavors to be overshadowed at times. In times of high stress it can be hard to seek the attention you may need, thus exploring the feasibility of discounted pocket therapy options like BetterHelp or Talkspace could be very beneficial to our population amongst the other resources ASDA currently holds.

B. The financial burden carried by dental students, particularly the disparity between in-state and out-of-state students, is undeniable. The inclusion of Grad PLUS loans further compounds this fiscal challenge. Effectively addressing student debt, possibly through financial aid reforms, new policy or fiscal scholarships to members, becomes imperative to help alleviate the significant financial strain on dental students.

C. It is imperative that the president oversees, provides context, and guides the strategic forecast of ASDA. The president should uphold the ASDA's core values while listening to the needs of our governing body and helping to streamline clarity and historical context. I believe, by fostering transparency and understanding, the president helps ensure the organization moves forward with unity and purpose.