

### ***District 3***

***Alyssa Yi, Maryland 2026***

#### **How do you work with or lead a team?**

I have had the wonderful opportunity to work on many teams and work with people from many different backgrounds, and have even worked through language barriers! I find that the key to success with a team lies in your mindset and ability to adapt to your situation, which is a trait I believe I possess. In instances where there is no “leader” established, I typically volunteer for this role, as I enjoy organizing and feel comfortable delegating tasks to team members. I ensure that everyone understands their responsibilities/roles in the group and encourage collaborative efforts. I also find that clear, consistent communication is essential in working with a team to ensure that goals are met and team members feel heard/supported. While leading a team, I am always willing to go out of my way to help others complete their tasks or make things easier for a team member if possible. I don’t want to overstep boundaries and will always encourage team members to fulfill their responsibilities themselves rather than just complete their tasks for them. I strive to be a leader that is supportive, positive, and open-minded! I strive to be a team member that puts full effort into everything I do.

#### **What leadership experiences have equipped you for the District Trustee role?**

As Vice President of my high school class, I developed foundational communication skills, as I spoke with professionals to organize fundraisers and dances, and budgeting skills, as I managed my class’s finances. I also developed my self-confidence as I would voice and follow through on my classmates’ concerns. During undergraduate, these skills were further strengthened in my leadership roles as I worked with more complex teams, communicating with team members in another country for service trips and with over 300+ students on a planning team. While in dental school, my involvement in Maryland ASDA as my class’s representative, a Community Service committee member, and a Fundraising Chair allowed me to learn the chapter’s role in our school, surrounding community, state, and district. In these roles, I further strengthened my communication, planning skills, and budgeting skills, specific to our chapter. On District Board, I served as a Speakers Chair and Sponsorship/Fundraising Chair and gained insight into the responsibilities at the district level. I fine tuned my skills as I made event schedules, sent out contracts, and negotiated sponsorships to fund district events. My district roles allowed me to create relationships with students from my district and professionals in the field, and made me excited for future involvement in ASDA and organized dentistry. If elected Trustee, I am confident that I would be able to be a voice for and support my district, work well with others, create successful district events, and fulfill my other responsibilities.

**Why are you interested in the District Trustee role and what do you hope to accomplish in this position?**

I would be incredibly honored to represent District 3 as its Trustee! Through my previous ASDA positions, I have made many genuine connections with students in my school and district. I am grateful for these friends and the knowledge and support we have shared and continue to share with each other. These opportunities through ASDA have been pivotal as I navigate through school and my future, and I hope to be as strong a voice, mentor, facilitator, and leader for the students in District 3 as the previous trustees. As District Trustee I want to create opportunities for students to network with each other and professionals in our field, encourage students to attend district and national ASDA events, and encourage students to become more involved in ASDA leadership and organized dentistry. I hope to increase the presence and excitement at our district events, especially with Rutgers School of Dental Medicine joining our district family! I hope to make these events valuable and educational, providing resources that students don't typically get exposed to in their academic setting. I also would like to work with sponsors to create "District Scholarships," to financially help students attend district events and possibly national events. My hope is that any student that is interested in attending an event or learning more about ASDA can have that opportunity worry-free. I also want to ensure all students' voices are heard by having a district email where students could send feedback, questions, and concerns anytime throughout the year.

**What are 2-3 issues important to dental students?**

One issue that most dental students can relate to is dealing with loans and loan repayment. With many students having earned at least one degree before entering dental school, loans may be an issue students face even before beginning dental school and may even be a deterrent to applying at all. With tuitions nationwide increasing exponentially within the last decade, it is not surprising that this remains one of the largest concerns for students during school and after graduation. With initiatives in place such as the REDI Act, it is important that dental students are actively advocating through state and national representatives to ensure that we are supported as we prepare for our futures in dentistry. Another important issue is the use of the internet as a resource for patients. With technology quickly advancing and the use of AI, it seems that anyone can be an expert on specific topics with an easy search. With social media becoming widely popular, sites such as Instagram, Facebook, and TikTok (possibly) are being used to spread information, whether true or false, to large audiences. While it is true that social media and AI can also be a positive source of evidence-backed information, it is difficult for patients to understand what is beneficial and harmful. It is important that students stay updated on evidence-based research and practices to correctly relay to patients. It is also important that students remain non-judgmental on how patients' may receive and understand information.