

District 2

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How do you work with or lead a team?

My leadership philosophy revolves around leading by example and fostering a culture of trust, collaboration, and dedication. To truly lead a team, I believe you must be willing to have a hand in everything, demonstrating the commitment you expect from others. My leadership experiences—as president of both the Academy of General Dentistry club and the Aesthetics Club, as well as District 2 Social Chair—have solidified my belief that actively engaging with every aspect of a project inspires teammates to push boundaries and work together toward a common goal.

While I trust my team and recognize the importance of delegating tasks, I firmly believe that the strongest teams are those where members demonstrate to one another a willingness to go the extra mile. Whether planning large-scale district events, supporting club initiatives, or managing committees, I consistently strive to lead with dedication and show that no task is beneath any member, including the leader. This approach not only fosters respect but also strengthens the team's cohesion and shared purpose.

Open communication is a cornerstone of my leadership style. Actively seeking input and valuing each team member's perspective ensures everyone feels heard and empowered to contribute. More importantly, I aim to cultivate a sense of camaraderie where everyone recognizes the collective effort as the key to success. Ultimately, I lead with the belief that teamwork thrives when all members—including the leader—step in, support each other, and work tirelessly to achieve shared goals.

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

My leadership experiences across multiple levels of involvement in ASDA and other organizations have equipped me with the skills and perspective necessary to excel as District 2 Trustee. Over the past three years at Columbia University's College of Dental Medicine (CDM), I've intentionally expanded my leadership roles, allowing me to grow while gaining a comprehensive understanding of ASDA's mission and operations.

As District 2 Social Chair, I've collaborated with multiple committees and members across the district cabinet to organize events that unite dental students from around the district, such as a district-wide boat cruise that brought members together in an innovative and enjoyable way. I hope to establish this as an annual tradition to strengthen connections and engagement across the district. These initiatives required clear communication and teamwork to bring ideas to fruition.

At the chapter level, I've served as Social Committee Chair, Lunch and Learn Chair, and Formal Chair for CDM ASDA, taking the lead on planning major events that required coordination between fundraising, social, and student governance committees. As president of the AGD and Aesthetics Clubs and vice president of the Student Business Organization, I further developed my ability to manage multidisciplinary teams and foster collaboration.

These roles, coupled with my experiences attending ASDA's NLC and District 2 meetings the past 3 years, have provided me the skills to amplify voices at both district and national levels. As Trustee, I would build on these experiences to facilitate connections, promote engagement, and ensure the district's continued growth and success.

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

I am eager to serve as District 2 Trustee because this role offers a unique opportunity to strengthen connections within our district and foster greater involvement in ASDA. As District Trustee, I want to create a network of peers that spans across chapters, allowing dental students to connect, collaborate, and support one another. The power of these relationships cannot be understated, as the dental community is tighter-knit than many realize, and the professionals we meet today could be our colleagues tomorrow. By establishing a network of students across District 2, we can share resources, ideas, and experiences, enriching the ASDA experience for all involved.

A key goal of mine will be increasing student involvement across District 2, ensuring that all members have the opportunity to engage in events and initiatives. Whether through organizing more inter-school events or providing avenues for leadership roles, I aim to ensure that our district is as involved, engaged, and proactive as possible. Additionally, I plan to leverage the extensive network I have built with dental reps and DSOs to provide students with greater opportunities for event planning, funding, and expanding our knowledge of the resources available to us. Strengthening these connections will help students navigate their careers more effectively.

Through networking and increased involvement, I believe District 2 can become a model for how collaboration and communication lead to a stronger, more unified student body. I hope to leave a legacy of an engaged, connected district where every student has the resources and opportunities to thrive.

What are 2-3 issues important to dental students?

Student Loan Debt: One of the most pressing issues for dental students is student loan debt. The high cost of dental education combined with salaries that may not be proportional to the debt creates significant financial strain. This burden influences career choices and can impact

long-term financial stability. Many dental students are concerned about how they will manage their debt while starting their careers, which is a challenge that requires thoughtful solutions to ease the financial burden.

Work-Life Balance and Mental Health: The intense demands of dental school—academic, clinical, and social—can take a toll on students' mental health and work-life balance. With high expectations, long hours, and the pressure to perform, students may experience stress and burnout. Mental health resources and a supportive environment are critical to ensuring students can manage stress and maintain well-being. Prioritizing mental health will allow students to thrive during dental school and in their future practices.

Licensure and Licensing Exams: Another significant issue for dental students is the variability in licensure requirements across states. Some states require residency programs or clinical board exams, while others have moved toward competency-based assessments. This inconsistency creates confusion and hinders students who wish to practice across multiple states. A more unified, national approach to licensure would streamline the process, reduce barriers, and make it easier for dental students to transition into their careers without navigating disparate state requirements.