

## ***District 13***

### ***Honesty Boone, Los Angeles 2027***

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

I approach teamwork with the belief that leadership is about creating an environment where everyone can contribute and grow. Instead of simply directing, I aim to inspire and empower others to take initiative and lead in their own way. By leading through example, I foster a space where individuals feel confident to share their ideas and strengths, knowing they'll be heard and valued.

For example, during my time as District 11 Secretary, I worked alongside a motivated and diverse group of individuals. We cultivated a culture of mutual support, where everyone took ownership of their responsibilities within the organization. This environment of collaboration allowed us to openly communicate, problem-solve together, and encourage each other to take initiative in the areas where we excelled.

I also believe in taking the time to understand what drives each team member. Whether it's offering feedback, guidance, or simply being a sounding board, I find that a team is most successful when each person feels understood and valued for their unique contributions. By recognizing everyone's strengths and fostering an atmosphere of trust, the team becomes stronger as a whole. Ultimately, leadership isn't about one person leading the charge—it's about creating opportunities for everyone to step up and contribute in meaningful ways.

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

My leadership experiences as Class President for two consecutive years and as District 11 Secretary have provided a strong foundation for the District Trustee role. As Class President, I learned to balance the responsibilities of dental school with leadership duties. I regularly met with faculty and served as the liaison between students and administration, which gave me valuable experience advocating for my peers—an essential skill for representing a district.

In addition to direct communication with students, I worked closely with a team of elected officers to organize events, address concerns, and ensure that everyone's voice was heard. This experience sharpened my organizational and team-building skills, which are crucial for collaborating with chapters within the district and ASDA leadership.

My role as District 11 Secretary further equipped me by providing a deeper understanding of ASDA's structure and operations. Sitting on the executive board, I had a seat at the table for key decisions and observed the inner workings of the district. This experience gave me insights into how to navigate challenges at the district level, helping me better support and represent chapters as we transition into District 13.

Together, these experiences have honed my ability to communicate effectively, collaborate with diverse teams, and advocate for the needs of those I represent. I am excited to bring these skills and my passion for leadership to the District Trustee role.

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

I'm interested in the District Trustee role because of the profound impact ASDA has had on my journey, both as a pre-dental student and now in dental school. As a pre-dental student, ASDA gave me much-needed direction—helping me with everything from improving my personal statement to advising on the DAT and connecting me with dental schools. At the time, I had very little exposure to the field, and ASDA was a guiding light. My involvement, however, was limited to the pre-dental committee. It wasn't until my first week of dental school that I truly discovered the breadth of ASDA's impact. The enthusiasm and energy from our chapter leadership were infectious, and I quickly immersed myself in conferences, advocacy efforts, and the sense of community that ASDA fosters.

Now, I feel a deep desire to give back to an organization that has shaped my path. As District Trustee, I hope to lay a strong foundation for our new district by building a team of passionate individuals dedicated to making our chapters and district stronger. I want to support chapter presidents and committee members in boosting engagement and ensuring that all dental students understand the value of ASDA. I also look forward to representing our district on a national level, contributing to ASDA councils, and advocating for initiatives that benefit our entire community. My goal is to help create a more connected, engaged, and supportive district that empowers every dental student.

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

Three major issues important to dental students are post-graduation uncertainty, rising dental school debt, and wellness.

First, many students are concerned about what the future holds after graduation, including job security, residency opportunities, and navigating an uncertain job market. With the evolving landscape of healthcare and changes in dental practice, it can be challenging to predict what opportunities will be available and how to best prepare for them.

Second, the increasing burden of dental school loans is a significant concern. As tuition costs rise, many students graduate with substantial debt, which can cause financial stress and impact long-term career choices. Addressing the growing cost of education and exploring options for loan repayment or forgiveness programs is critical to helping dental students transition more smoothly into their professional lives.

Finally, dental students are concerned about their mental well-being during their educational journey. The demanding nature of dental school, combined with long hours and high expectations, often leads to stress, anxiety, and burnout. Students are seeking ways to find balance, manage their mental health, and prioritize self-care while navigating the pressures of rigorous coursework and clinical requirements.

These challenges affect students' academic success, career choices, and overall well-being, making them vital issues to address for a healthier, more sustainable dental education experience.