



APhA-ASP National Officer Elections
Candidate for the Office of APhA-ASP National President-elect

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GOAL STATEMENT

APhA-ASP exists to elevate the field of pharmacy by empowering and equipping student pharmacists with the tools needed to excel. This is evidenced through their promotion of advocacy, policy, patient care initiatives, and leadership opportunities. As National President-Elect, I would devote my time to further implementing these priorities on local, regional, and national levels. I would strive to inspire cohesiveness and collaboration among chapters nationwide by utilizing communication platforms like the Connected Community app and by executing virtual networking opportunities for students to attend and establish connections prior to professional conferences. APhA-ASP richly enhances what student pharmacists are learning in the classroom, and I believe that stimulating engagement in this organization changes the trajectory of every student pharmacist’s future. To support students, I would like to expand personal development programming access to ensure that student pharmacists feel equipped and inspired to go the extra mile and chase greatness in their chapters, their communities, and their profession. I am passionate about pushing myself to excellence, and I am passionate about encouraging others to pursue it alongside me. Empower. Equip. Engage. These goals will shape how I lead and invest in APhA-ASP if elected as your National President-Elect.

BACKGROUND & EXPERIENCE

My involvement in pharmacy organizations started during my pre-pharmacy years when my school’s APhA-ASP chapter president began to mentor me and expose me to the endless opportunities found in organizations like APhA. Immediately after starting pharmacy school, I was elected to the position of president-elect for our APhA-ASP chapter and am currently serving my term as the chapter president. The experience I have gained through this position is beyond measure. Attending APhA-ASP’s Summer Leadership Institute (SLI) alongside chapter leaders from across the country this past July greatly amplified my exposure to and passion for the Academy of Student Pharmacists and all the incredible strides they are making for the profession.

I genuinely believe that championing for the future of pharmacy requires actively investing in those who will be the future of the field. When I was a pre-pharmacy APhA member, I was heavily impacted by the organization, and I longed to see others reap the benefits of involvement during their pre-pharmacy years as well. My deep desire to create a space that equipped and empowered those coming up behind me led me to cofound the Pre-Pharmacy Organization at Union University and assist current APhA-ASP officers in implementing a Pharmacy Friends mentorship program. When the Pre-Pharmacy Organization was established, I served as the Founding President, and my involvement has continued into pharmacy school through Pharmacy Friends Mentor and Student Pharmacist Liaison positions. Upon stepping into my role as APhA-ASP chapter president, I worked with the admissions office at the College of Pharmacy to coordinate incentives for pre-pharmacy students to join APhA for the entire duration of their pre-pharmacy education. In addition, I have implemented a new Pre-Pharmacy Liaison position on our executive council to ensure that every facet of our membership is represented and leveraged for the profession. After implementation of this organization, the pre-pharmacy program has seen elevated retention rates and engagement, and our local APhA-ASP chapter has seen significantly increased membership among those preparing for matriculation into pharmacy school.

In an effort to be involved in policy and advocacy on a state level, I have been an active participant in the Tennessee Pharmacists Association, serving as a Tennessee Society of Student Pharmacists Member-at-Large for two consecutive years and as a delegate within the House of Delegates. During my time in this capacity, I have become well acquainted with the processes involved with policy. As I have learned the art and skills of advocacy within the political terrain, I have created workshops that train and equip members of our chapter to understand the legislative agendas the association is endorsing, engage with government representatives, and confidently share the ways that pharmacy is impacting their voters’ personal lives.

PHILOSOPHIES ABOUT APhA-ASP

Everyone finds a home in APhA regardless of where one is in their pharmacy career. The organization unites every niche of the profession, reminding us of the common goal while leading us to appreciate our differences. APhA’s diversity provides the space for members to recognize that the field of pharmacy requires every unique unit to function to the caliber that it does. The Academy of Student Pharmacists is intentional about meeting student pharmacists where they are in their journeys and equipping them with resources to enhance their chapters and communities. They echo the priority of the organization to train the future leaders of the profession in their advocacy, policy, and professionalism skills.

In APhA-ASP, student pharmacists are provided countless opportunities to step out of their comfort zones and broaden their horizons. The operational structure of the academy allows students to get involved in leadership positions on every level through National Executive Committee, National Standing Committees, Regional Offices, Local Offices, Appointed Positions, and more. APhA-ASP is intentional to equip its leaders to maximize their potential through Webinar Week programming for officers and practical tools that can be utilized at every chapter. Networking events organized by APhA like Annual Meeting and Exposition, Midyear Regional Meeting (MRM), and Summer Leadership Institute (SLI) give student pharmacists the chance to build relationships with fellow students from across the country and connect with future colleagues and employers.

APhA’s devotion to seeing change on every level of the system from the local community to the national government is confirmed through their push for policy and patient care. Policy is a core component of advocacy, and APhA is diligent about equipping their members with the knowledge and skills required to engage with legislators in a compelling way concerning the key advocacy issues put forth by the organization. APhA’s emphasis on serving patients locally through the national patient care projects aids in earning and reinforcing patients’ trust in their most accessible healthcare providers while simultaneously building the reputability of the entire pharmacy community.

Within the vast array of operation focuses that the Academy promotes, there is somewhere for every student’s passion to find a creative outlet. APhA-ASP joins together students from across the nation and provides a centralized space for collaboration to flourish and for student pharmacists to find their individualized purpose within the collective whole. Their emphasis on patient care and on education within our communities allows student members to be involved in something bigger than themselves and find inspiration during the season of lectures and exams.

The opportunities that APhA-ASP provides remind student pharmacists that life exists beyond the walls of the classroom and that finding one’s passion does not have to be put on hold during the demands of higher education. Involvement in the American Pharmacists Association-Academy of Student Pharmacists inspires student pharmacists to exceed expectations and strive for greatness for their patients, their profession, and their personal lives.

TALENTS & SKILLS

A leader must be someone worth following, someone who values the ideas, concerns, and contributions of others, who seeks to include and not dominate, who contemplates the downstream impacts of decisions and tactfully navigates situations rather than reacting to them. Over the years as I have served in various leadership capacities, these have been the skills I have developed and sharpened.

To be worth following, a leader must have a clear plan for where they are heading and an excitement about the journey that compels others to join. Planning out attainable steps that progress towards the long-term goal and staying faithful to that plan takes discipline. I am adept at strategically mapping out a plan to accomplish a goal and sticking to it, and I am intentional about communicating goals and expectations to my team members to minimize misunderstanding. In each leadership capacity, I prioritize the people around me as much as I work to fulfill responsibilities. I find great fulfillment in walking alongside others as they discover and pursue their passion, and I always seek out ways to celebrate the successes of those around me. One of the ways I enjoy investing in other student pharmacists in this season is through developing leadership workshops that help them maximize their personal leadership potential. One such workshop centered around alleviating the stress of leadership transitions and included various team-building exercises, group discussions, personal reflection opportunities, and professional development activities. Students who attended walked away with a new confidence in their abilities to lead and renewed excitement for the potential of the term ahead.

Intentionality is the guiding theme in all my personal and professional endeavors. I firmly believe that time spent collecting input and listening to ideas from the collective body is time best spent. Every member of the pharmacy community has something significant to contribute to the profession. If elected, I plan to utilize intentionality through technology and in-person experiences to build lasting relationships, promote connectivity, and leverage the strengths of every APhA-ASP member to further advance the organization and the profession.

While intentionality in developing relationships and incorporating the ideas of others is essential for success, intentionality cannot stop there. Electing a representative that is committed to contemplating the long-term impacts of each action and endorsement is of utmost importance. Over the years, I have developed this skill of pausing and considering how the actions implemented today impact the realities of tomorrow. I can both wait and move into action at the appropriate times.

Since my start at Union University, I have learned to represent an institution. I have worked extensively with the College of Pharmacy and offices across campus – meeting with faculty and staff, navigating administrative happenings, recruiting prospective students, promoting involvement, and speaking at banquets to represent the student body. These opportunities have compounded over the years to shape me into the person I am today, seasoned and confident in my ability to implement these skills on a national scale to fulfill the responsibilities of this position.

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