



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

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## **GOAL STATEMENT**

My vision for APhA-ASP is one of excitement, fervor, and passion—one where all students, regardless of title or experience, feel empowered and energized to engage wholly with policy, patient care, and professional development. As President-Elect, I will foster this community and engagement by (1) meeting chapters and members where they're at, taking a "start local, start small" approach to supporting student pharmacists, and (2) focusing on a unifying theme of advocacy during my term.

For many, advocacy is merely synonymous with policy, but advocacy is the common thread to everything APhA-ASP does. We advocate for our profession when we secure proclamations for American Pharmacists Month and talk to legislators about PBM reform. We advocate for our patients and their health when we perform HPV screenings and educate individuals about the benefits of vaccinations. And we advocate for ourselves and our success in post-graduate careers when we bring guest speakers to our chapters and host CV workshops to educate and inspire our peers.

In framing the work we do through a central lens of advocacy, I hope to develop a stronger next generation of student pharmacists capable of using their voices, skills, and knowledge to collectively build a better tomorrow.

## **BACKGROUND & EXPERIENCE**

### APhA-ASP Leadership Involvement

- Region 3 Delegate: co-author of Resolution 2024.2 (Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare Education)
- Chapter President-Elect: led Pharmtoberfest event planning, the chapter patient counseling competition, chapter conference involvement, and governance/Constitution overhaul

### APhA-ASP Conference Involvement

- MRM 2023: Chapter Delegate and chapter policy co-author (Neurodivergence in Schools and Colleges of Pharmacy)
- Summer Leadership Institute 2023: attendee
- APhA Annual 2023: Chapter Delegate and author of New Business Item 2023.2 (Sustainability in Pharmacy)
- MRM 2022: Chapter Delegate and chapter policy author (Suicide Prevention Education)

### Additional Selected Experiences

I highlight these additional leadership opportunities and involvements because each is related to organizational management, strategic planning, and/or policy development and advocacy, all of which are essential skills for an APhA-ASP President-Elect candidate to possess.

- Congressional Pharmacy Fellow, US House of Representatives, Office of Rep. Buddy Carter (GA-01) (May 2023 – Aug 2023): focused on policy development related to PBMs, drug pricing, and naloxone access
- NACDS RxIMPACT Student Advocate, National Association of Chain Drug Stores (Mar 2024): selected to attend Day at the US Capitol event to advocate for the profession
- Curriculum and Assessment Committee Member, University of Georgia College of Pharmacy (Aug 2022 – Aug 2023): focused on long-term curriculum strategic planning in pharmacology-oriented courses
- Executive President, Residence Hall Association, Georgia Institute of Technology (May 2021 – May 2022): oversaw operations of an 8,000+ member organization, managed an annual budget exceeding \$250,000, and directly managed a team of 11 Directors to host dozens of events and pass hundreds of pieces of legislation
- Public Policy Committee Member, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Georgia Chapter (Feb 2022 – Mar 2023): secured mayoral proclamation and advocated for the successful passage of GA HB 1013 (Mental Health Parity Act)
- Georgia Tech Strategic Plan Development Team Member, Office of the President, Georgia Institute of Technology (Feb 2020 – Dec 2021): helped create the university's "cultivate well-being" focus area and goals for their new 10-year strategic plan
- Educational Sessions Conference Chair, South Atlantic Association of College and University Residence Halls (Aug 2021 – Dec 2021): led the organization, development, and implementation of dozens of educational sessions for a virtual, Covid-era regional conference

## **PHILOSOPHIES ABOUT APhA-ASP**

To effectively lead, I believe it's vital to meet chapters and members where they're at and adopt an individualized, "start local, start small" approach to supporting students and developing chapters; this philosophy extends to all programs and activities of the Academy and will guide the way I approach leadership if elected President-Elect.

In talking to student leaders across the country, I've heard of similar concerns and challenges facing many chapters: decreasing engagement, limited budgets, fundraising difficulties, Executive Committee vacancies, and more. These problems are complex and nuanced, so the resources, ideas, and support that APhA-ASP provides chapters to tackle these problems must likewise be nuanced and uniquely tailored to chapters of varying sizes, structures, and needs. Simply, what works for a northwestern school with 100+ students in each class will not work for a southeastern school with just over a dozen, and the way one chapter embraces patient care and policy when they have an annual budget of \$1,000 will look quite different from the way a chapter with \$10,000 does the same.

To illustrate what "start local, start small" means to me, imagine an APhA-ASP chapter that wants to get more involved in policy, but which lacks the resources to secure a proclamation in support of National Pharmacists Month or host a "Day at the Dome" styled legislative event. Adopting a "start local, start small" mentality means helping that chapter reframe what "policy" is to begin with. More than just advocating for PBM reform or provider status, "policy" work happens all around us and at all levels. Getting a chapter's feet wet with policy might mean, instead, advocating to their college faculty and administration to increase the amount of education in their program's curriculum related to reproductive health. Alternatively, maybe "starting small" with policy for that chapter means talking to independent pharmacies in their city and recommending they stock naloxone at an affordable price so that it is more readily available to patients. APhA-ASP should encourage, support, and promote these types of activities just as readily as they support more traditional events.

To provide another example, embracing a philosophy of individualized support that meets the unique needs of each chapter might mean exploring non-traditional ways of connecting chapters to one another. Currently, APhA-ASP does an exceptional job of connecting chapters geographically by region; chapters which reside in nearby states are more likely to interact at conferences and webinars based on recent and current programmatic formats. Geographic proximity may not always be the best way to connect chapters, however. A small chapter in Region 3, for example, may not get much meaningful advice from nearby chapters if they are the only chapter of their size in the Region. Instead, the chapter may be better served by being introduced to chapters of similar size, even if they fall outside of their region. Accordingly, the Academy may want to consider how to more readily connect chapters based on size, needs, or shared challenges.

## **TALENTS & SKILLS**

Because the President-Elect ultimately serves as a member on the APhA Board of Trustees, it's vital that they be well-versed in current policy and regulatory issues in pharmacy so that they can make well-informed decisions on behalf of the Academy. That is, while the President-Elect has a primary role in leading the Academy and supporting the work of all 100+ chapters across the nation, they also have an active role "beyond" the level of the Academy, guiding not just the work and perspectives of student pharmacists but also of APhA as a whole. I'm confident that my prior experiences in policy and strategic planning roles have prepared me well to rise to this responsibility.

This past summer, I worked as a Congressional Pharmacy Fellow in the US House of Representatives. In this role, I collaborated with the office's Health Legislative Assistant to develop policy related to PBMs, drug pricing, and naloxone access; secure co-sponsors and endorsements for legislation; and submit comments to FDA and HHS on newly proposed rules about printed medication information. This experience helped me understand how policy works in the real world, develop a solid understanding of the most pressing issues facing the profession of pharmacy today, and actively practice engaging others in developing solutions to complex problems. Because I worked in an office with a political ideology opposite of my own, the fellowship also taught me how to collaborate effectively with people from diverse backgrounds and with diverse beliefs for the purpose of advancing a common, shared goal: bettering pharmacy.

Policy experience alone does not make for a qualified candidate, however; a President-Elect must also think strategically, both about how they lead the Academy and also how they engage chapters and members throughout the year. My past experiences on my college's Curriculum and Assessment Committee and as a member of Georgia Tech's most recent 10-year Strategic Planning Committee have allowed me to deepen my strategic thinking skills, which I now apply to my local APhA-ASP chapter regularly as chapter President-Elect. At UGA, for example, I recently led a strategic reorganization of our chapter—completely overhauling our constitution and organizational structure—to increase member engagement moving forward. And, as the head of logistics for Pharmtoberfest—our chapter's largest annual patient care event—this past year, I reevaluated infrastructure and layout needs for the event, leading to cost savings and increased attendee engagement relative to the year prior.

In addition to increasing my knowledge about the inner workings of APhA-ASP, serving most recently as the Region 3 Delegate for the Academy has afforded me new opportunities to strengthen these skills in policy and strategic planning. In evaluating passed resolutions from MRM, for example, I collaboratively identified artificial intelligence as a contemporary issue in the profession and helped lead development of a resolution on its use in healthcare education. Alongside my other prior experiences, my work in this role demonstrates a continued commitment to leading positive change by leveraging my unique strengths, which are directly applicable to President-Elect.

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