



APhA-ASP Regional Officer Elections
Candidate for Regional Delegate – Region 6

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GOAL STATEMENT

As regional delegate for region 6, I plan to emphasize the importance of collaboration between local chapters. This allows us to come together and form a stronger community of future pharmacists and advance pharmacy overall. I plan to schedule monthly meetings with all chapters in the region to share/exchange ideas to strengthen ourselves individually, and as a region. This would include Chapter President and Policy Vice President meetings. Pharmacy itself is not solely about one school or person, it focuses on how we can grow together in this profession. I believe APhA is a vital organization to advance the field of pharmacy and implement further changes to create a profession that works to serve others. Being an advocate for this engages other students to be involved within APhA and also have an impact on our future careers. If we can bring our specific region together, we ensure we concur on subject matters and constantly exchange new, exciting information that can improve each of our chapters individually. I also plan to innovate the future of pharmacy within APhA. Innovation will be achieved within networking and advocacy as the power of student pharmacists in the policy process is imperative for change.

BACKGROUND & EXPERIENCE

Throughout my pharmacy career, I have taken on a variety of leadership positions within my university. Although, my most imperative one thus far has been president of my local APhA-ASP chapter. This year alone, I have planned and facilitated a Walk-By Clinic to provide free healthcare to our community. Within this role, I organized over 40 pharmacy student volunteers and multiple faculty members to assist with our activities. We provided free flu shots, blood pressure screenings, blood glucose tests, mental health information, medications disposal bags, Narcan information, reproductive health resources, and OTC medication safety tips. During this event, we also showcased the importance of American Pharmacist Month to our local community explaining the role of a pharmacist and how they can help their patients. This event not only showcased the value of APhA-ASP to our community, but also provided resources regarding the role of pharmacists and how we are the most accessible health professionals in our community. Planning the walk-by clinic was the largest event I have organized to date. This showed me that I have the capability to organize events, delegate tasks, and gather a team to achieve one common goal: helping our community.

As well as being my APhA-ASP Chapter President, I have also been the Vice President of the College of Pharmacy for 3 years. In this position, I collaborate with faculty, staff, and students to ensure all parties have a voice in our university and our education. In this role, I have learned the importance of ensuring everyone's questions are addressed and concerns are considered. I understood the role of communication between faculty and students and how imperative it is to have transparency as a university. This allowed for our school to flourish as we were able to work together to fix problems that arose and offer suggestions. Communication is a big aspect of what I wish to convey if I were the new region 6 delegate. At times, we do feel isolated from the other chapters and nationals. Thus, if we were to increase collaboration and involvement within our regional chapters and then to nationals we could have a clear understanding of what we wish to accomplish within APhA. Along with my role as SGA VP, I am also the current president of Phi Lambda Sigma Alpha Theta chapter at my university. This role taught me similar themes of collaboration and communication to solve problems, but it also taught me other lessons that prepared me for my future. PLS president taught responsibility, discipline, and passion. Responsibility to me means that you agree to fulfill your duties to yourself, your chapter, and your community. It represents accepting failure when needed and taking fault for your own actions. Discipline is shown in being able to follow all needed tasks in a professional and timely manner. PLS represents the vitality of pharmacy leadership in which both discipline and responsibility are key pillars. Passion was shown to me within this role as well and throughout my journey. Accepting these roles, I was shown how truly dedicated I was to my profession and innovating the future of pharmacy. I believe we have a crucial role within our healthcare system and finding individuals who share this passion is extremely important in building up our mission. These roles as well as my presidency within APhA-ASP will help me succeed in the role as regional delegate for region 6. Not only because I have held many leadership positions, but because of the lessons I have learned within them. I hope to then apply this to serving as the new region 6 delegate.

TALENTS & SKILLS

During my pharmacy career, I have taken on a variety of leadership positions within my campus. Along with these organizations, I have also been pursuing my MBA from the University of Missouri- St. Louis and plan to graduate December 2023. With multiple items on my agenda, I still have managed to complete all tasks and responsibilities while maintaining my studies. Although I will be a P3/P4 during this position, I can assure my region that I will remain dedicated and passionate with my responsibility towards each chapter of the region and APhA overall. I have found APhA to be a major part of my life both professionally and personally. This organization has shown me the importance of pharmacy and advocacy. I am extremely passionate about the field of pharmacy and I allow this passion to drive me to do better for my community, chapter, and individually. Along with passion, I do believe it is important to have great time-management skills, which I have upheld with the many positions I have been a part of as well as communication. Communication goes hand in hand with collaboration as we want to ensure transparency within APhA. This creates a stronger force of student pharmacists working together to better the field of pharmacy. Walter Peyton once said: "we are stronger together than we are alone" and I believe this to be applicable to pharmacy. If we increased awareness of advocacy within our individual schools, our capitals and legislation, and then onto the national level, we would be an unstoppable force working towards the betterment of our patients' lives. This is where my passion stems from, the ability to look towards the future. I constantly look towards improving pharmacy and sharing the importance of pharmacists in our healthcare system. I intend to create a strong force within my region that would also be applicable to the regional level. Thus, having a strong national APhA chapter that works together solving and sharing common goals is ideal.

PLANS AS REGIONAL DELEGATE

As an APhA-ASP Regional Delegate, how will you extend the involvement of student pharmacists in the APhA-ASP Policy Process and advocacy initiatives beyond chapter delegates and chapter policy vice presidents?

It is imperative that pharmacists, as well as student pharmacists, be involved within the policy process and advocate for the future of pharmacy. At times, it appears that we forget how much we can control within the field of our future profession. The world of pharmacy continues to change, and we have the power to innovate our careers. Advocacy was never something that came to mind when I first entered pharmacy school. It was not until I became involved with APhA that I saw the power of student pharmacists and our role within the policy process. I aspire to share this knowledge with other student pharmacists. Within the last two years of my pharmacy education, I have become extremely passionate about our future careers as pharmacists and how we can shape the healthcare industry positively. The first step in this process is to improve participation from our chapter delegates and chapter Policy Vice Presidents to increase involvement within the individual chapters. This is the first part in ensuring we are educating our peers about advocacy and policy. After this step, it is important to then promote reaching out at the local and national level. I would strongly encourage the attendance of legislative days to all states within Region 6 and then once we have completed this task, we can look at bringing Region 6 voices to a national level. Focusing on our own specific chapters and region, we can grow individually and then together to work towards advocacy for pharmacy. We are stronger together than alone, and I ensure I will put my passion and dedication in creating a stronger region.