



APhA-ASP Regional Officer Elections
Candidate for Regional Delegate – Region 5

Stephen Presti
The University of Iowa College of Pharmacy

prestistephen@gmail.com

GOAL STATEMENT

As an APhA-ASP Regional Delegate, my goal will be to educate chapter members on current pharmacy-related issues and cultivate active engagement in the APhA-ASP Policy Process and advocacy initiatives. I plan to achieve this goal by empowering and uniting the Policy VPs within the region. By leveraging my experience and knowledge, I will mentor Policy VPs to ensure each chapter is engaged and successful. I will support Policy Vice Presidents throughout the entire APhA-ASP Policy Process, starting with early goal setting and providing support at each stage. In particular, efficient transmission of information from the national office down to Policy VPs is a priority. I will also strive to provide resources to Policy VPs that facilitate increasing their chapter's involvement with advocacy initiatives. By fostering collaboration and facilitating the exchange of best practices, we can strengthen our collective voice as student pharmacists. Together, we can inspire a new generation of pharmacy advocates, enhance our collective impact, and support initiatives of APhA-ASP to advance the profession.

BACKGROUND & EXPERIENCE

APhA:

National Policy Review Committee Member: Jun 2023 – Current

APhA-ASP:

Chapter Policy Vice President: Jan 2023 – Current

Chapter Policy Committee Chair: Oct 2023 – Current

Chapter Delegate at APhA-ASP House of Delegates: March 2023

Chapter International Vice President: Jan 2022 – Dec 2022

Other:

Iowa Pharmacy Association Executive Intern: May 2023 – Aug 2023

Student Delegate at IPA House of Delegates: June 2023

Iowa Pharmacy Association Legislative Committee Member: Oct 2023 - Current

Rho Chi Chapter President: Mar 2023 – Current

The University of Iowa College of Pharmacy Curriculum Committee Member: Oct 2022 – Sep 2023

The University of Iowa College of Pharmacy Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Member: Sep 2023 – Current

University of Iowa College of Pharmacy Honor Council Member: Apr 2023 - Current

Coe College Residence Life Assistant Area Coordinator: Aug 2018 – May 2019

Coe College Residence Life Resident Assistant: Aug 2016 – May 2018

My passion for policy and advocacy started last year at my first APhA-ASP Midyear Regional Meeting (MRM). At that point, I had not actively participated in the development of my chapter's policy, believing that I had little to offer. However, during the policy session at MRM, I found the conversations to be fascinating, and I was able to offer meaningful contributions, which erased the initial intimidation I felt toward policy. Motivated by this experience, I pursued every policy-related opportunity available, which included attending policy open forums leading up to the APhA annual meeting and serving as my chapter delegate in the APhA-ASP House of Delegates. Beyond APhA, I found many policy and advocacy initiatives through my state association, the Iowa Pharmacy Association (IPA). Participating in IPA's Pharmacy Day on the Hill provided me with my first opportunity to engage in face-to-face discussions with Iowa state legislators to advocate for pharmacy practice reform. This experience ignited my passion for advocacy even further. I subsequently secured a role as IPA's summer Executive Intern, which afforded me numerous opportunities to advocate for important pharmacy issues. I had the privilege of speaking with more state legislators, Iowa Congress members, and even foremost presidential candidates about PBM reform, an issue critical to our profession. Moreover, I actively participated in IPA's own policy development process, gaining valuable insights to the complexities of policy writing and how policy guides the advocacy initiatives of professional associations. As I continued to demonstrate my interest in policy, I was honored to be appointed as the sole student committee member on the APhA Policy Review Committee, a national committee tasked with reviewing previously adopted policies and recommending updates in alignment with recently accepted policies from the annual meeting. This position strengthened my policy writing skills and provided me with a unique perspective on the importance of policy consistency and evolution. My leadership experiences in policy and advocacy have uniquely equipped me with the experience, knowledge, and skills needed to guide and inspire my fellow student pharmacists while serving in the role of APhA-ASP Regional Delegate. I'm excited to support others on their policy journeys, and together, we can strengthen the collective voice of student pharmacists and propel the pharmacy profession to new heights. I eagerly anticipate using my past experiences to motivate and empower the next wave of pharmacy advocates to push the profession forward.

TALENTS & SKILLS

As an enthusiastic candidate for the position of APhA-ASP Regional Delegate, I am equipped with a well-rounded skillset that aligns perfectly with the responsibilities of the position. My previous leadership experiences have demonstrated my capacity to lead and motivate a diverse group of student pharmacists, instilling a shared sense of purpose and facilitating collaborative action. I take pride in fostering the growth of emerging leaders and channeling their potential toward collective achievements. Furthermore, my approach to leadership emphasizes relationship building. Building meaningful relationships is integral to successful advocacy and leadership. My interpersonal skills have enabled me to establish and nurture connections within and beyond my chapter. I understand the importance of building rapport, fostering collaboration, and creating a network that amplifies our collective impact. I am committed to cultivating relationships that transcend individual chapters. I will also leverage effective communication to serve effectively. Whether engaging with team members, presenting policies, or facilitating discussions, I prioritize transparent and concise communication. I am committed to ensuring that information flows seamlessly, empowering team members with the knowledge needed for informed decision-making. In policy writing, I am capable of distilling complex policy concepts into language easily accessible by all student pharmacists, and I will use this skill to help chapters develop their own policies. Additionally, effective time management is essential in managing multiple responsibilities and will be critical to fulfilling the responsibilities of the position. Throughout my academic journey and leadership roles, I have fine-tuned my time management skills, which allow me to balance academic commitments, work, and leadership responsibilities efficiently. I understand the significance of prioritization and organization in meeting deadlines and achieving objectives, especially when the work of others is dependent upon my timeliness. As most of the Regional Delegate's work is done remotely, the ability to collaborate effectively in virtual teams is paramount. I have honed this skill through my participation in the APhA Policy Review Committee, which has equipped me to thrive in a virtual working environment and given me confidence to lead region-wide initiatives despite physical separation. In conclusion, my robust skill set encompasses leadership, relationship building, effective communication, remote teamwork experience, and time management. These skills position me as the ideal candidate for the role of APhA-ASP Regional Delegate, and I am excited to leverage these skills to contribute significantly to the advancement of the pharmacy profession and the collective voice of student pharmacists.

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?

As an APhA-ASP Regional Delegate, I will be committed to expanding the involvement of student pharmacists in the APhA-ASP Policy Process and advocacy initiatives beyond chapter delegates and policy vice presidents. Policy VPs often lack concrete tools to engage their chapter members effectively. Although student leaders enter their roles with a commitment to serve, competing demands can hinder their ability to engage students fully. To address this, I will guide Policy VPs in hosting events and provide them with tangible resources to facilitate the process. This will include sharing ready-made slide decks and marketing materials, making it easier for them to organize and promote events that foster student involvement. I used this strategy to support my own efforts while serving as the chair of my chapter's Policy Committee. In anticipation of a busy semester, I prepared meeting materials months in advance over the summer. This proactive approach allowed me to hit the ground running; this year, we have already successfully involved chapter members in policy writing for MRM, collaborated on advocacy initiatives with our state association, and we are currently finalizing plans to host a grassroots letter-writing campaign. I will use my success to guide the region's Policy VPs to host their own policy events and provide them with the necessary tools to simplify the process, thereby empowering them to drive the involvement of student pharmacists in policy and advocacy initiatives. Additionally, effective communication is crucial to ensure the success of chapters, and I want to improve the transmission of communication between national and chapter leadership. This is particularly important during times of change, such as following the significant adjustments in the structure of the Midyear Regional Meeting (MRM). To prevent confusion, I will work proactively with national leadership to ensure Policy VPs receive the information they need to engage with the APhA-ASP Policy Process preceding the annual meeting and next year's MRM. Lastly, I will work to connect chapter Policy VPs with their counterparts in other chapters and explore opportunities for shared initiatives. Cross-chapter collaboration can enhance the impact of our advocacy efforts, create a sense of unity among student pharmacists in the region, and provide valuable opportunities for networking and relationship building. In summary, my approach as an APhA-ASP Regional Delegate will revolve around collaboration, communication, and resource provision to create a more inclusive and effective platform for student pharmacists to engage in the APhA-ASP Policy Process and advocacy efforts. Together, we can work towards strengthening our collective voice and advancing the goals of the APhA-ASP.