



# APhA-ASP Regional Officer Elections

## Candidate for Regional Delegate - Region 1



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## Previous Leadership and Experience

I began my pursuit of leadership upon my transfer to the University at Buffalo. At that time as an undergraduate pre-pharmacy student, I ran for and was elected to serve as the President of our school's pre-pharmacy club. Entering pharmacy school, I continued to pursue leadership roles that would allow me to understand pharmacy, influence others, and develop my network. In doing so, I have pursued and now hold the following roles in the graduate setting: President of the UB School of Pharmacy Class of 2027, APhA Policy VP, and IPhO Competition Coordinator. Additionally, I serve as the site coordinator for an outreach program associated with public schools within the city of Buffalo that aims to educate students on healthcare information and effective self-care practices. Finally, while attending APhA annual the year prior in Orlando, I had been graciously requested to serve as the University at Buffalo's chapter delegate during the House of Delegate sessions.

Leading UB's Pre-Pharmacy club offered me a first glimpse into the responsibilities of an administrator as well as strategies for effective leadership. I had been quickly required to adapt how I engaged in conversation toward a manner that recognizes the needs and backgrounds of every individual. The logistical responsibilities additionally developed my understanding of how to administrate with efficiency and effective time management. The leadership roles I've pursued in Pharmacy School have further deepened my understanding of how to influence those around me, create opportunities for growth, and advocate for the best interest of peers. As Class President, I have extensively interacted with school administrators using professional clarity, discussing class sentiments and proposing solutions that broaden student access to opportunities that increase both professional and personal growth. My pursuit toward APhA leadership in particular has broadened by logistical understanding of the organization as a whole and allowed me to directly involve myself in local and national student affairs. Serving as the chapter delegate during the House of Delegates gave me my first and most direct experience in this regard. Directly involving myself on behalf of my chapter into the policy creation process inspired me to intensify my advocacy for this field and strengthened my confidence to make my voice heard. This carried into the current role I hold with APhA as Policy VP. With this new title I've formulated new policy proposals that will be debated and potentially presented on a national scale. Within my community I serve as a site director for a City of Buffalo outreach program titled the Saturday Academy. This program requires teams of pharmacy students to travel to city schools with the aim of educating students about healthcare and the value of pharmacists. As an administrator, I work with my fellow officers to communicate between institutions, create event plans, and coordinate the movement of individuals. It is here where I have developed my capacity to create growth and maintain a network on a regional scale, beyond the classroom. Ultimately, each of these leadership roles have strengthened my ability to fulfill the principles that lead me to apply for the role of Region 1 Officer.

## Talents and Skills

I believe that I have developed a strong ability to represent my views and the views of others with effective clarity. However, to advocate for my peers requires that I understand them. This has led me to develop my ability to empathetically listen to and understand the perspectives of those I speak with. Creating this trust is an essential foundation needed to maintain an honest and constructive environment. Of particular relevance to this role, I have strengthened my ability to present policies and solutions to upper administrations and legislators. Through school advocacy events and while attending APhA's Summer Leadership Institute, I have now spoken to the offices of several local, state, and national legislators that hold a stake in the process of implementing prospective policy proposals. In doing so, I have grown my understanding of effective negotiation, especially as it pertains to our political and legal structures.

## Plans as a Regional Delegate

APhA-ASP is an integral source of personal and professional development available to the pharmacy students of this country. However, advertisement for and dispersion of these resources demands a proactive and passionate team of student pharmacists that are willing to share the purpose of APhA. As someone who has been greatly aided by the resources and connections offered through this organization, I feel it is my duty to share this growth with other pharmacy students. In doing so, I will likewise satisfy my own principles surrounding relationships and community. These are to develop an honest understanding of those around you, to positively influence others, and to advocate for communal growth so long as it is in your ability to do so. I pursue the role of Region 1 Delegate so as to be able to fulfill these principles and aid the members of my region with the resources and scope associated with this position. All student pharmacists serve to benefit from APhA-ASP both personally and professionally, and I intend to be an active participant in sharing this growth.

Recognition of the processes that define policy proposal, deliberation, and implementation should not be limited in understanding alone to students interested in policy. Rather, it should be a responsibility for all student and current pharmacists to hold a recognition of this process so that any member of this field has the understanding of how and when to influence change. On a student level, this education process can and should come from active and former regional officers, policy VPs, and chapter delegates. In pursuing the education of peers, there are several tactics that may be utilized that effectively create recognition of, and ideally passion for, the policy making process. Fundamentally, maintaining updated advertisements of the current state of affairs in the field of pharmacy will allow all student pharmacists to recognize our current legal capacity, obstacles to our practice, and active legislative initiatives. Sessions aimed at inviting open dialogue of these initiatives, as well as new proposals, will allow students the opportunity to critically consider the context and expected outcomes of proposals, particularly as they relate to our national and state-based legislative structures. Specific to APhA-ASP, mock 'House of Delegate' sessions will allow students to become acquainted with the effective etiquette necessary for civil deliberation and debate. Finally, creating outreach opportunities to city, state, and national leadership will present the most direct and educational experience in so far as allowing students to personally meet the individuals with leverage over legislative progress and to hear their perspectives on our field. These experiences should be advertised to all ideally taken up by all student pharmacists, not specifically those with an interest in policy. With the role of Region 1 Officer, I intend on being active in the advertisement of these initiatives and an educator to chapter leaders on how they can support their student-peers.