



APhA-ASP Regional Officer Elections

Candidate for Regional Delegate - Region 2



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Previous Leadership and Experience

As a second year pharmacy student, I currently have the privilege of serving as President-elect for the APhA-ASP Virginia Commonwealth University Chapter. This opportunity has presented me with immense opportunities to further develop my leadership and communication skills. A defining moment was attending the Summer Leadership Institute, where I met with Virginia representatives to advocate for pharmacy reform. This experience underscored the importance of advocacy and collaboration beyond my immediate community, fueling my passion to contribute on a larger scale. It also inspired me to take my service to the national stage by interning with the Industry Pharmacists Organization, where I support the Professional Programming Committee in promoting educational content and webinars for current industry fellows.

Furthermore my experiences as a first-generation college student have inspired me to support students through the mentorship program that my brother and I have established. This has allowed me to connect with students from various backgrounds, and at various levels through their educational journey. Through this virtual mentorship program, it has been clear to me that one can have a national impact through a virtual space. Over the past year we've had the opportunity to mentor students from all parts of the country demonstrating how a strong sense of community can be fostered in a virtual space.

This philosophy allows me to stay connected with my community members in my hometown while attending pharmacy school out of state. As a Syrian-American, I've had the privilege of furthering my education while a civil war has threatened my home country, beginning just months after my immigration to the United States. Whether through luck or my parents' tireless efforts to provide us with a future away from conflict, I have navigated my identity as an American with a sense of survivor's guilt, which has driven me to seek out ways to support newly arrived community members in North Carolina.

Inspired by my mother, my family and I established a volunteer group to connect new community members with resources to help them settle in. Although this initiative began during my high school years, I have continued to work closely with this community while attending school out of state. I help coordinate resources, carpooling, and translation services through virtual and phone communication, ensuring that I remain engaged and supportive despite the distance.

I truly believe that any role, no matter the scale, can have a broad reach. As Webmaster for the Student National Pharmaceutical Association and Historian for Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity, my goal is to bridge local efforts with regional and national opportunities to enhance the development of my peers. Over the next two years, I am determined to see our VCU chapters receive national recognition for the incredible work of our members, and to elevate the visibility of our local projects as examples of what can be achieved when passion meets purpose.

My diverse leadership experiences across various roles have equipped me with the skills necessary to succeed as an APhA-ASP Regional Officer. Serving as President-elect for the APhA-ASP Virginia Commonwealth University Chapter has provided me with valuable opportunities to lead and organize events such as the Local Patient Counseling Competition and American Pharmacists Month. Managing these events helped me develop strategic planning, collaboration, and communication skills that are crucial for regional leadership.

In addition, attending the Summer Leadership Institute allowed me to engage in advocacy by meeting with Virginia representatives to discuss pharmacy reform. This experience highlighted the importance of legislative action and collaboration in effecting change, and I am eager to bring this knowledge to a larger platform in the APhA-ASP Regional Officer role.

My time as a Global Medical Writing Intern at UCB Biosciences further enhanced my organizational and regulatory skills. Contributing to five regulatory submissions and leading clinical data portal initiatives taught me how to manage cross-functional teams and projects, which will help me oversee policy and advocacy activities at the regional level.

As a Founder and Mentor of the L&Y Mentorship Program, I have been able to mentor high school students across the country, showing me that impactful leadership transcends local boundaries. This experience has shown me how to engage and support diverse populations in a virtual space, which is critical for coordinating efforts across the region.

Finally, my experience with the Syrian-American volunteer group I helped establish has been invaluable. Coordinating resources and services for newly arrived community members in North Carolina has taught me the importance of empathy, communication, and problem-solving—skills I plan to use in advocating for pharmacy students at the regional and national levels.

Talents and Skills

One of my strengths is the ability to break down complex information, something I developed as a Research Assistant in the Patisaul Lab. There, I focused on studies examining the effects of chemical exposure on neurodevelopment, specifically with harmful chemicals like flame retardants. I spent time researching and presenting data that contributed to the understanding of these chemicals, which directly applies to the policy process. Being able to gather solid evidence and use it to back up proposals is a skill I know will be crucial in this role.

During my time as a Global Medical Writing Intern at UCB Biosciences, I contributed to regulatory submissions and helped audit clinical data to ensure FDA compliance. This experience taught me how important it is to be thorough and precise—whether you're working on regulatory documents or drafting policy proposals, accuracy and attention to detail are key. The ability to navigate through regulatory frameworks and ensure accuracy is something I can bring to help manage regional policies and standards.

As an Arabic Interpreter at WakeMed Raleigh, I gained strong communication skills and learned how to bridge cultural gaps. I worked with patients from different backgrounds, facilitating conversations between healthcare providers and non-English speaking patients. This taught me to pay close attention to detail and always ensure clarity—skills I believe are important in advocacy work as well. It also deepened my understanding of healthcare disparities, which drives my passion for creating inclusive policies.

Working as a Surgical Assistant at UNC Adams School of Dentistry gave me hands-on experience in high-pressure, fast-paced environments. I assisted in over 800 faculty surgeries, learning how to stay calm, focused, and detail-oriented under pressure. These are skills I know will be useful when managing and leading policy proposal forums or coordinating regional meetings, where making precise decisions is just as crucial.

Furthermore, As Webmaster for the Student National Pharmaceutical Association (SNPhA), I managed digital engagement. This role prepared me to use digital tools to communicate across a large region, ensuring that student pharmacists stay informed and connected with policy and advocacy initiatives. Finally, my global perspective comes from experiences such as attending the GREEN Program in Iceland, where I studied sustainable energy systems. This broadened my view on global healthcare issues, giving me a better understanding of how different systems can work together. Participating in competitions like the Johns Hopkins University Coding Bootcamp and the CLARION Case Competition has also given me experience working with interdisciplinary teams to tackle complex healthcare problems, which I know will be invaluable when drafting innovative policies.

With my background in research, regulatory work, community engagement, and global initiatives, I'm confident I can contribute meaningfully as an APhA-ASP Regional Delegate.

Plans as a Regional Delegate

As someone who's always had to figure things out from the ground up, especially as a first-gen immigrant, I know how hard it can be to feel like your voice matters—especially in areas like policy and advocacy. My goal as an APhA-ASP Regional Delegate is to change that and make sure every student feels like they belong in these spaces, whether they have experience or not.

I've seen how, in my own roles, from organizing events as APhA-ASP President-elect to supporting IPhO webinars, it's the simple things—making people feel welcome, breaking down complex stuff into something understandable—that make the biggest impact. So I want to create those same kinds of spaces for students to get involved in policy, without the pressure or formality.

At the end of the day, APhA-ASP is about empowering us as future pharmacists, and I want to make sure students from every background feel like they're a part of that. It's personal to me, and I'm going to make sure no one gets left out.

From my experience mentoring students in the L&Y Mentorship Program, I've learned that many people feel like they don't belong in certain spaces simply because no one has encouraged them to participate. I've seen this firsthand with students who are capable and driven but haven't had the support or confidence to step forward. I want to change that in our pharmacy community by making the policy process more approachable for everyone, not just those in leadership roles.

To start, I plan to create open forums—both in-person and virtual—where students can ask questions and learn about policy without feeling overwhelmed or out of place. These sessions will be interactive and welcoming, breaking down the policy process in ways that are easy to understand, so even students with no prior experience feel confident enough to join in. I'll also work closely with chapter delegates and policy vice presidents to recruit students who may not traditionally get involved, just like I've done in my role with the Syrian-American volunteer group, where I've connected underserved communities to resources and opportunities they didn't know were available.

Additionally, I'll leverage my experience managing digital platforms as the Webmaster for the Student National Pharmaceutical Association to set up online spaces where students from different schools can collaborate on policy ideas and initiatives. This digital approach will allow for continuous engagement, regardless of physical location or schedule conflicts. Through these platforms, students will be able to exchange ideas, propose policies, and provide feedback in real time, fostering a more inclusive and accessible advocacy environment.

Lastly, I believe that extending involvement is about creating a culture where students feel heard. I'll work to create more transparency and communication around policy opportunities within our region by regularly sharing updates, holding Q&A sessions, and ensuring students know how their voices are shaping real decisions. I've seen how a little encouragement can go a long way in my mentorship roles, and I want to be that resource for students across the region.

In the end, my goal as Regional Delegate is to build a more connected and inclusive community where every student—regardless of their background or prior experience—feels empowered to step up and be a part of the policy and advocacy process that shapes the future of our profession.