



## Candidate for the Office of APhA-ASP Speaker of the House

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### GOAL STATEMENT

As APhA-ASP Speaker of the House, I will help each APhA-ASP chapter to begin a successful policy legacy. Many times, student pharmacists think the policy process is confusing or daunting. They feel that their voices cannot easily be heard or are insignificant. To combat this, I will provide each chapter with simple ideas to easily engage every chapter member in the policy process such as a “Pop of Policy” initiative at chapter meetings. Once students are engaged in the policy process, their passion for policy is ignited. Passion paves the way for effective advocacy. Aiding advocacy efforts, I will seek to supply each chapter with example formats of congressional meetings, sample letters to write to elected officials, and the location of town halls hosted by elected officials that each chapter could attend in their own state. These tools will help each APhA-ASP chapter to effectively advocate on behalf of the profession of pharmacy to our elected officials. To begin our policy legacy as student pharmacists, we must begin today. As APhA-ASP Speaker of the House, I will equip our chapters so that they can envision their policy legacies and can begin to effectively implement them.

### BACKGROUND & EXPERIENCE

I have sought to be involved as a leader within the Samford University APhA-ASP Chapter and APhA-ASP as a whole since I began pharmacy school. I have served as P1 Liaison, Media Relations Co-Chair, Policy Vice President, and currently serve as the Regional Delegate for Region 3. My other extracurricular involvement on the Samford University campus includes serving as Phi Lambda Sigma President and as a McWhorter School of Pharmacy Ambassador. I also seek to serve the Birmingham community, the state of Alabama, and the nation through my service with the Alzheimer’s Association. My experience as an Alzheimer’s advocate includes being an Alabama/Florida Panhandle Chapter Board Member, the Alabama/Florida Panhandle Chapter Policy Committee Chair, a Congressional Ambassador, and a Community Educator. Additionally, in 2013, I founded the community initiative All In for Alzheimer’s, which seeks to engage everyone regardless of age or interest in the fight to end Alzheimer’s. For this work, I am featured in Maria Shriver’s “The Women’s Alzheimer’s Movement” on the “Big Wall.” All of these service endeavors have given me the opportunity to speak about the pharmacy profession, leadership, and healthcare to over 45 community groups and thousands of individuals including elected officials, civic organizations, radio shows, television interviews, senior centers, forums, place of worship, and elementary schools. Through these varied leadership experiences, I have learned how to be an impactful ambassador for an organization, how to speak with eloquence in a variety of public formats, and how to effectively balance my academic responsibilities with my extracurricular involvement.

### PHILSOPHIES ON APhA & APhA-ASP

The American Pharmacists Association seeks to advance the profession of pharmacy and healthcare as a whole. One of the most important ways it accomplishes this is through its broad representation of voices in pharmacy. Every area and niche of pharmacy is represented by APhA. This diverse representation is further evidenced through the existence of the three academies—pharmacy practice and management (APhA-APPM), pharmaceutical research and science (APhA-APRS), and student pharmacists (APhA-ASP). Through my experience serving in APhA-ASP, I have seen that this academy continues the commitment to advance the profession of pharmacy through a unique model that allows student pharmacists of diverse interests and skills to engage in advocacy and patient care. For instance, one student pharmacist that I know was very knowledgeable about immunizations and sharing that information with patients. He chose to become involved with our chapter Operation Immunization Patient Care Project. Because of this choice to use his interests and skills to serve locally through APhA-ASP, he significantly increased our community’s immunization rates. However, different student pharmacists have different skills and passions. Before entering pharmacy school, I developed a deep passion for policy. After learning during pharmacy school orientation that APhA-ASP had a chapter committee dedicated to policy, I knew I had a place to use my interests and skills to effect positive change for the profession and for my future patients. Serving as Policy Vice President this year, I have been able to convert my passion into action by leading two small group meetings with our Congressman to discuss provider status. These two different stories display how each APhA-ASP experience is personalized and unique, showing that both APhA-ASP and APhA provide a home for every pharmacist, from student days to retirement. The uniqueness of each experience within our organization is connected by the overarching vision of advancing the profession of pharmacy to ensure optimal healthcare for all.

### SPECIALIZED TALENTS & SKILLS

The APhA-ASP Speaker of the House must possess several key attributes to successfully serve both pharmacists and student pharmacists across the country. One must be knowledgeable, an effective communicator, relatable, flexible, an efficient time manager, and an impactful advocate. One of the supreme duties of the APhA-ASP Speaker of the House is to be a source of authority on parliamentary procedure, especially when presiding over the House of Delegates. To further my knowledge, I completed a course entitled Parliamentary Procedure Made Easy and was certified by the National Association of Parliamentarians. However, knowledge is useless unless it is shared with others through the art of communication. My leadership opportunities taught me how to be an effective communicator in many different situations. I have spoken on the local, state, and national level to a wide variety of people—from kindergarteners to CEOs. I have learned to have a listening ear and an open mind.

Regardless of a person’s circumstance, level of education, or background, I seek to open the door to communication by finding common ground. This is, in essence, the ability to relate to anyone. Through my speaking engagements and service endeavors, I have learned that things often do not go as planned, meaning plans must be amenable. This has made me flexible and given me the ability to easily adapt. Because events are unpredictable, I have learned how to efficiently manage my time. I am able to balance the rigor of graduate school coursework with my commitment to serve my profession and my community. This commitment to service lead me to become an impactful advocate for healthcare and the profession of pharmacy. I have lead advocacy efforts at each level of government, speaking on behalf of student pharmacists at the Alabama State House all the way to Capitol Hill. Through possession of the aforementioned characteristics, I will not only successfully fulfill the duties of APhA-ASP Speaker of the House but also propel this position of service to new heights.