



I chose to apply for the student representative position on the Council on Education and Workforce Development because I wanted to get involved in the future direction of ASHP and ultimately, in the future direction of pharmacy. As a student, I had been highly involved in a number of different organizations, contributing my time to projects in my college and my community. As I entered my last year of pharmacy school, I felt this to be the time to start transitioning into the 'big leagues,' and to join the world of pharmacy practitioners.

Washington, DC, and the surrounding areas have an almost palpable energy of passion and change. As I arrived to Bethesda, MD for ASHP Policy Week in September, I will admit, I finally felt my first wave of apprehension. I was introduced to countless other participants in Policy Week, both from the ASHP Headquarters, and from around the entire country. As I listened to each person's journey through their career, I found myself suddenly surrounded by what felt like a hurricane of accomplishment. As our introductory meetings came to a close the day before our policy councils were to formally meet for business, I thought to myself, "Will I really be able to contribute?"

The next day, our council met and we embarked on our first agenda item. As discussions began, I realized that I started out in pharmacy as a technician. Then I became a student, and soon enough I would become a pharmacist. I had an intimate knowledge of education and workforce development, not obtained only through my readings, but through my life experiences.

Throughout the next couple days, our council discussed education and training issues for pharmacists and technicians. My opinions were a valued part of the discussion, and I left feeling like I made a true contribution to the direction of our profession. My position will continue for the upcoming year, and I could not be more excited to continue to work with my council. I only hope that I have the opportunity to continue working with ASHP in this capacity for years to come.

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