



Nominee Bio Questions

1. Name & credentials:

Reece Dawson, MS, RD, LD

2. Current residence (city/town, state):

Spartanburg, SC

3. Education:

The University of Alabama Bachelor's of Science in Food and Nutrition

The University of Alabama Coordinated Program in Dietetics

The University of Alabama Master's of Science in Human Nutrition

4. Present position:

Nominating Chair for the Piedmont Dietetic Association

5. Previous positions:

Public Relations Representative- Junior Board of the Alabama Dietetic Association

6. Professional activities (current):

Piedmont Dietetic Association- Nominating Chair

VOICE Council at Prisma Health Greenville Memorial Hospital

7. Honors and awards:

Alabama Dietetic Association Outstanding Senior Award, Spring 2022

College of Human and Environmental Sciences Outstanding Senior Award, Spring 2022

University of Alabama Presidential Scholarship, Fall 2019- Spring 2022

University of Alabama President's List, Spring 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2021, Spring 2022

Order of Omega Greek Excellence, Spring 2021

Kathleen Stitt Endowed Scholarship, Fall 2021

Delta Gamma Merit-Based Scholarship, Fall 2021



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University of Alabama Dean's List, Fall 2019, Fall 2020

Kathleen Stitt Endowed Scholarship, Fall 2020

Alpha Lambda Delta Scholarship, Fall 2020

Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society, Spring 2020

H. Wayne and Cheryl W. Hutton Family Endowed Scholarship, Spring 2020

University of Alabama President's List, Spring 2020

8. Certifications:

RD, LD

9. Publications:

Tan L, Zhang Y, Dawson R, Kong L. Roles of macular carotenoids in brain function throughout the lifespan: A review of recent research. *Journal of Agriculture and Food Research*. 2023;14:100785. doi:10.1016/j.jafr.2023.100785

10. Statement of purpose:

See below

Statement of Purpose:



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Over this last year, I have had the privilege of serving as the Nominating Chair for the Piedmont Dietetic Association. I initially applied for the position because I was new to the Upstate area and viewed it as an opportunity to get involved and meet other professional women who enjoyed leadership. While the position has offered me the opportunity to get involved and make connections with other dietitians, it has been an eye opening role. It has been such a pleasure to work alongside the other dietitians on the PDA Board. I have been impressed and inspired by their dedication to not only their position but the dietetics profession in the Upstate as a whole. Furthermore, this position has given me a platform to recognize and celebrate students and professionals in the area for their commitment to their education and work. Again, I have been impressed and inspired by the incredible work that dietitians and future dietitians are accomplishing around me. It has been a joy to learn more about them and their backgrounds throughout the awards process this year. My eyes have been opened to the great work of dietitians all around me, and I want to continue to learn more and celebrate every accomplishment of those around me. I hope to have the opportunity to do this on a larger scale in the role of Nominating Chair- Elect on the SCAND Board.

My experience in leadership, both professionally and personally, has prepared me for the position of Nominating Chair-Elect. Aside from my experience this year on the PDA Board, I have had multiple leadership roles during my collegiate and professional career. In college, I served as the vice president of my sorority where I had the opportunity to lead over 500 women in philanthropy and sisterhood. It is in this position that I learned how to effectively communicate with large groups of individuals, manage time efficiently, and plan and carry out large scale events and celebrations. I plan to use these skills in the role of Nominating Chair Elect not only to convey information, but to also encourage collaboration and innovation with dietitians all over the state. Additionally, I served on the junior board of the Alabama Dietetic Association during my collegiate career. This leadership role allowed me to learn more about the functional role of dietetic associations at the state level, and better understand how the field of dietetics fits into healthcare and public health on a large scale. I was able to collaborate with dietitians on the board of the Alabama dietetic Association to mold the state legislature and implement guidelines to empower dietitians throughout the state. I know that this experience will benefit me in my work with the SCAND Board. Furthermore, I served on the ECRI Wound Care and Prevention Initiative Board as the Baptist Health Clinical Dietetics Representative. In this role, I worked with a multidisciplinary team to decrease the incidence and improve prevention for hospital acquired pressure injuries protocols across the Baptist Medical Center hospital system. This position has equipped me with the skills to work with a team effectively to achieve a larger and multifaceted goal. The interventions made by this group were extensive and required long term follow up, and this experience taught me the importance of being open to adapting plans



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and interventions as needed to ensure success. Moreover, I served on the executive board for OCEANS Lifestyles, a 5013 nonprofit based in North Carolina that provided education and support as well as fund research into adolescent obesity and adolescent bariatric surgery for patients in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Florida. This role allowed me to use my nutrition knowledge and training to advocate for and support adolescents during a time of need. This experience also opened my eyes to the widespread need for dietetic intervention with this patient population, and I hope to one day use my work within the nutrition field to support this cause further. Finally, I am currently involved in the Junior League of Spartanburg, a women's leadership group with a focus on creating an impact on the community through service and collaboration. This involvement has taught me the importance of community involvement and the accomplishments that can be made when a group of individuals are working towards the same goal. Each of these experiences have equipped me with the leadership skills necessary to succeed on the SCAND Board as Nominating Chair-Elect.

In addition to my extensive leadership experience and involvement, I have always had a passion for celebrating others. I serve on the VOICE Council for Prisma Health Greenville Memorial Hospital. This council meets monthly to brainstorm ways to improve workplace morale and create a positive culture within the hospital. In this role, I have enjoyed being able to contribute to the celebration of my colleagues and promote positive attitudes around me. I know that the joy I find in encouraging and supporting others will benefit me in the role of Nominating Chair- Elect as I work to celebrate and support dietitians all over the state.

It is an honor to be considered for the position of Nominating Chair-Elect for the SCAND Board. If chosen for this position, I know that I have the experience and passion to lead effectively and inspire dietitians across South Carolina to celebrate their accomplishments and seek to better the world around them.