

Student Government Association – Vice President – Letter of Intent

Lyle Yaphockun, OMS-I
Touro COM Middletown, Class of 2021

To the Touro Family,

I humbly submit with this letter my candidacy for Vice President of the Student Government Association.

I understand that as the Vice President, one of my main responsibilities will be to represent Touro COM Middletown. In conjunction with the President, I will represent Touro COM Middletown not only to organizations within Touro, but also to schools and organizations in the greater medical community. As a transgendered adjacent individual, I have made it my mission to pursue medicine with the goal of not only representing my community, but also being an active participant in the work that seeks to create for a more diverse and inclusive healthcare system.

I have worked as a Peer Health Educator at APICHA Community Health Center. At APICHA I connected underrepresented patients to healthcare programs, educated patients about sexual health, and fostered a community that validated every patient. As an intern at the Center for HIV Educational Studies and Training (CHEST), I gathered data regarding sexual practices, drug/alcohol usage, mental health, and medication adherence with the goal of contributing to studies that serve as the scientific basis for better clinical practices for LGBTQ patients. As the treasurer of Delta Lambda Phi, I helped organize volunteering opportunities at organizations like the Trevor Project whose mission is to raise awareness and prevent LGBTQ suicide.

I have worked and volunteered in organizations committed to making healthcare—and society—more inclusive and accepting. I continue this very same mission in my career at Touro COM Middletown. With the advent of my medical curriculum, I have recognized the responsibility I have to be visible as a transgendered individual in medicine. As a mentor in Med-Achieve, I have had the privilege to teach and inspire the next generation in medicine. I am currently scheduled to give a lecture titled “Public Health & LGBTQ Healthcare”. I also plan to create a program called “Patient Companion” which aims to bridge the gap between LGBTQ patients and healthcare providers by assigning a student volunteer to accompany a LGBTQ patient to their doctor’s appointment. A major reason LGBTQ patients are often left out of the healthcare system is because of their fear of judgement and discrimination from other patients and healthcare providers—a companion can do so much to bridge this gap.

I have a responsibility to show the community that despite my differences, I can contribute and succeed in medicine. I am running for Vice President to give the student body the opportunity to say to other schools, like NYIT and PCOM, that Touro believes in an accepting and diverse healthcare system. As your Vice President, I will echo the message of the student body; I will embody the mission of Touro: We are committed to underrepresented and underserved minorities in medicine. By electing me, a clear message is sent: Touro is dedicated to an inclusive healthcare system for all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lyle Yaphockun', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Lyle Yaphockun