

APhA-ASP INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMING AWARD

American Pharmacists Month: Pharmacists' Recognition and Inspiring Student Engagement in Legislative Advocacy University of Maryland

Description

- Organized **twelve** American Pharmacists Month (APhM) events (**500% increase from previous year**)
- To recognize pharmacists' contributions to health care
- To empower student pharmacists to engage in legislative advocacy

Methods

The chapter **collaborated with eight organizations** to hold in-person and virtual events, as well as social media campaigns to achieve its goal.



Showing appreciation

- Grab-N-Go Snacks and a Thank You card station
 - New collaboration with the **SGA**
 - Chapter members handed out snacks to faculty and staff to show appreciation.
 - Members tabled a card-making station – **140+ cards** were handwritten and delivered to the recipients.
 - Provided student pharmacists with opportunities to express their gratitude to their faculty and colleagues in a more meaningful and personal way
- Three new social media campaigns: Pharmacy Technician Day, Pharmacy Team Spotlight Campaign, and World Pharmacist Day
 - The posts showed appreciation for the important roles that pharmacy technicians and pharmacists play around the world.
 - The campaigns accumulated a total of 1006 reaches.**

Educating student pharmacists

- Provider Status Bill Signing Wall
 - New collaboration with **Student Government Association (SGA)**, **Phi Lambda Sigma (PLS)**, and the **American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP)**
 - Students and faculty encouraged to sign and write statements during Pharmacy Legislative Week (PLW) – **80+ student pharmacists were educated on the Provider Status Bill**
 - Facilitated students' understanding of advocacy by providing tangible means to promote the profession of pharmacy
- Advocacy Hour
 - New collaboration with **SGA**, **PLS**, and **ASCP**
 - Panel that addressed the importance of student pharmacists' involvement in advocacy during PLW
 - Speakers introduced the Maryland Pharmacy Coalition, and state- and federal-wide advocacy efforts, and concluded with opportunities for student pharmacists to practice legislative advocacy.
 - The event was also live-streamed and student pharmacists from **Notre Dame of Maryland University** and the **University of Maryland Eastern Shore** joined remotely.
 - A total of 67 student pharmacists, 10 of whom were first-year student pharmacists (15%), and six faculty members attended the event.**
- Virtual Trivia
 - Trivia questions were posted on the chapter's Instagram stories to quiz student pharmacists' knowledge of policy and advocacy.
 - Amassed 463 reaches**



Future Directions

- Appreciation for pharmacy technicians and community pharmacies
 - Postcard station for students to show their gratitude to pharmacy technicians and/or community pharmacies around the Baltimore City area
- Mental Health Series
 - Social media campaign of videos of students and faculty pharmacists providing advice on how to handle workload and stress to benefit mental health