



Dear Colleagues,

I am excited to write to you as a candidate for **Vice-President Elect** of the American Academy of Dermatology, which is predicated on my commitment to the broad-spectrum of interests in the Academy, my anticipation of the wide challenges the Academy will face in this ever-changing Health Care environment, and my vision for creating a unified agenda and action-plan to meet these challenges.

My uniqueness for the Office of VP-Elect is a function of my general leadership preparation and my varied and distinct experience within the Academy over the last 20 years. I have spent a lifetime, since early childhood, bringing together disparate groups of race, gender, and ethnicity to function seamlessly for a common purpose. In the early and formative days of my life that common purpose was to assemble teams in my neighborhood for sporting purposes. That grew into more formal responsibilities in my professional career where I have been challenged to play a leadership role in most of my professional organizations. From the Chairperson of the Dermatology Section of the National Medical Association to the President of the Skin of Color and the Women's Dermatologic Societies, and currently the Board of Directors and Executive Committee of the Academy, I have assumed these leadership roles that have made a difference.

The core of my management philosophy is based on four foundational tenets: the ability to **identify**, to **include**, to **harmonize** and to **motivate**. As the demographics of the country changes, the Academy will need to start identifying a more inclusive approach to membership and leadership. This inclusive approach should not be limited to ethnicities but should include cross-gendered and intergenerational groups. Once the members of the Academy and its leadership are comprised of a more balanced subset of the various groups, the challenge of harmonizing and motivating towards the Academy's goals will be paramount.

Metaphorically, we all in a boat on the high seas of uncertainty, where skillful navigation will guide us safely and successfully. We have to all row in unison and in the same direction. As the Academy grows and evolves, I believe that I am well positioned and ideally prepared for the challenge and qualified to assume the office of VP-Elect of the Academy.

I humbly ask for your vote.

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