



Certified Press

Measuring Dental Assisting Excellence®

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Celebrate Dental Assisting Excellence



*Dental Assistants
Recognition Week
March 6-12, 2011*

Word from the Chair

Richard Hunt III, D.D.S.,
Chair, DANB Board of Directors



Dental Assistants Recognition Week (DARW) is March 6-12, and this issue of *Certified Press* features many individuals worthy of recognition. On page 6, you can read about those who reached DANB Certification milestones, and learn more about what it takes to be recognized as the most effective educator of the year. Page 7 features inspiring stories of the Air Force dental assisting students who earned DANB's Certificates of Competency in Radiation Health and Safety (RHS), and Infection Control (ICE). Page 7 also highlights many worthwhile organizations that offer dental care to those who could not otherwise afford it.

DANB is always happy to hear about the many unique ways that DARW is celebrated across the country, and this year is no exception. Whether it was through activities, events, gifts or all of the above, DANB would love to share your stories in the next issue of *Certified Press*. Please see the right side of this page for details on how to submit your DARW news.

If you're looking for some ways to commemorate DARW, consider giving yourself or a colleague the gift of professional development. DANB offers several opportunities to take your career to the next level. You might want to take DANB's expanded functions exams and work toward earning Certified Preventive Dental Assistant (CPDA) Certification. Or if you are interested in advancing your business skills, learn more about DANB's latest e-learning course on human resources fundamentals for the dental office. You can learn more about both of these opportunities on page 3.

On the note of recognition, it is with great sadness I share the news that Anna Nelson, CDA, RDA, M.S., passed away earlier this year. Ms. Nelson had an unwavering dedication to dental assisting throughout her career, and the profession and community are certainly feeling her loss. Ms. Nelson's reputation as a leader and educator, and her commitment to the profession of dental assisting, are evident by the many kind words used to describe her on page 6. Everyone at DANB will be keeping Ms. Nelson's family and friends in our thoughts as we fondly recall all of her contributions to this fine profession.

With warm regards,

Richard F. Hunt III

Congratulations to Emeritus Certificants

Nov. 1, 2010 - Jan. 31, 2011

Name/State	Certification Year
Deborah Brown CDA-Emeritus; NC	1979
Carol Ellis, CDA-Emeritus; VA	1981
Virginia Gilley, CDA-Emeritus; TX	1974
Mary Ann Goshima, CDA-Emeritus; HI	1970
Lois Huffman, CDA-Emeritus; OH	2001
Barbara Jappinen, CDA-Emeritus; MI	1986
Linda Kasprzak, CDA-Emeritus; VA	1996
Colette Mink, CDA-Emeritus; CA	1977
Susan Muse, CDA-Emeritus; MA	1996
Bonita Rutherford, CDA-Emeritus; TN	1979
Dorothy Smith, CDA-Emeritus; GA	1971
Brenda Sutton, CDA-Emeritus; TX	1985
Kathleen Swanson, CDA-Emeritus; CA	2001
Willa Thomas, CDA-Emeritus; WI	1974
Marjorie Willis, CDA-Emeritus; CT	1980

How did you celebrate
Dental Assistants Recognition Week?

Share your stories with DANB!
E-mail haronovich@danb.org to submit
your DARW news and photos.

State of the States

Alaska

In August, the Alaska Board of Dental Examiners adopted regulations for dental assistants to earn certificates in coronal polishing, and the board continues to work on regulations for restorative functions certification.

Arizona

Effective Jan. 1, 2011, the Arizona State Board of Dental Examiners (ASBDE) discontinued the requirement to pass DANB's Arizona Clinical Radiologic Proficiency Exam to earn the Arizona Board-approved certificate in radiology, while retaining the requirement to pass DANB's RHS exam.

Arkansas

In October 2010, the Arkansas State Board of Dental Examiners approved a rule requiring Registered Dental Assistants with expanded duties permits to complete two continuing education hours in infection control every two years before renewing their permits.

California

The Dental Board of California began administering its new Law and Ethics exam after the exam was compromised during the summer of 2010.

Illinois

The Illinois State Dental Society will be pursuing legislation during the 2011 legislative session to allow dental assistants with additional education to place, carve and finish amalgam restorations in an effort to address the access-to-care crisis in rural and public health.

DANB Enforces Disciplinary Policy

DANB Individuals – including DANB exam applicants, DANB exam candidates, DANB Certificants and those who hold DANB Certificates of Competency – are responsible for abiding by *DANB's Code of Professional Conduct*. Violating *DANB's Code of Professional Conduct*, including but not limited to commission of any act specifically prohibited in *DANB's Disciplinary Policy*, may result in disciplinary action and the imposition of sanctions.

DANB Certificants, DANB Certificate of Competency holders, exam applicants and exam candidates may be subject to disciplinary review for matters stemming from irregular behavior, fraudulent credentials, and legal, regulatory and credentialing actions as described below. These may also include cases reviewed pursuant to disclosure of Background Information on a DANB exam application or renewal form if the review panel considering the case directed that the action taken be reported in *Certified Press*. Other individuals who misuse DANB trademarks, compromise the security of DANB exams, or assist others in any behavior that warrants review under this policy may also be subject to investigation and action by DANB.

Indiana

Effective Jan. 2, 2011, the Indiana State Board of Dentistry implemented new regulations for dental assistants to perform coronal polishing. The new rules outline education requirements and practice limitations.

Maryland

Effective January 2011, all Dental Radiation Technologists seeking renewal of certificates must complete a two-hour board-approved course in infection control.

Massachusetts

On Aug. 20, 2010, new dental regulations went into effect. The major changes include the addition of an Expanded Function Dental Assistant; to qualify one must be a CDA. In addition, the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Dentistry is drafting regulations for the registration of all dental assistants in this state.

Minnesota

As of September 2010, a Licensed Dental Assistant in the state of Minnesota is permitted to initiate, place and remove IV infusion lines and monitor patients after receiving a sedation certificate. Since an appropriate course is not yet available to meet the education requirement for this certificate, the Allied Dental Education Committee is in the process of developing an education and training program to meet the requirement.

Ohio

The Ohio State Dental Board adopted rules allowing dental assistants to monitor and assist in the administration of nitrous oxide anesthesia, effective January 2011.

DANB's Disciplinary Policy and *DANB's Code of Professional Conduct* can be downloaded from DANB's website at www.danb.org. To report a DANB Individual in violation of DANB policies, please visit the "Complaints Regarding Disciplinary Issues" section of DANB's website or contact Katherine Landsberg at klandsberg@danb.org or 1-800-367-3262, ext. 431.

The following are six cases of DANB's disciplinary actions and sanctions from Jan. 1, 2010, through Nov. 30, 2010. The remaining cases from this time period will be published in the summer issue of *Certified Press*.

Case #1

State: Connecticut

Circumstances: An individual who failed DANB's Radiation Health and Safety (RHS) exam was accused of submitting fraudulent DANB Test Admission Notices to her employer in an attempt to conceal from her employer the fact that she failed the examination.

Grounds for Action: DANB determined that the respondent violated *DANB's Disciplinary Policy* and that the following grounds exist for disciplinary action: engaging in dishonest or irregular behavior, manufactur-

Pennsylvania

The Pennsylvania State Board of Dentistry approved new Expanded Function Dental Assistant scope-of-practice regulations.

Texas

In December, the Texas Board of Dental Examiners adopted rules requiring dental assistant registration as well as course and examination requirements.

Virginia

The regulations for delegable duties for Dental Assistant II were signed by the governor in January 2011 and will become effective on March 2, 2011. Those dental assistants interested in earning Virginia's DA II designation must first register with the Virginia Board of Dentistry as a DA I. DA II then requires that DA I's hold DANB's CDA certification as a prerequisite to enroll in required DA II courses.

Proposed Rules

Many states are in the process of proposing or adopting rule changes for dental assistants, including: Arizona, California, Florida, Hawaii, Kentucky, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and Washington.

For more information, visit your state dental board website or contact your state chapter of the American Dental Assistants Association to find out how to become involved in the legislative or regulatory processes.

ing a fraudulent or otherwise unauthorized document conferred by DANB by virtue of a contract with a third-party organization, infringing on DANB's intellectual property rights, and violation of *DANB's Code of Professional Conduct*.

Sanctions: The respondent was permanently barred from taking any DANB exam. DANB notified the Connecticut State Dental Commission of the adverse disciplinary decision. DANB will publish the disciplinary action, without disclosing the respondent's name, in *Certified Press* and on DANB's website.

Case #2

State: Maryland

Circumstances: An individual was indicted by a grand jury and subsequently convicted on charges he sexually molested a young woman while she was under anesthesia in the dental office. He was also accused of attempting to intimidate the victim. At the time of the indictment, the individual was DANB Certified, but was lapsed at the time of the conviction.

Grounds for Action: DANB determined that the respondent had violated *DANB's Disciplinary Policy* and

Cont'd on p. 3

DANB Renames New Certification Program

The Dental Assisting National Board, Inc. (DANB) has renamed its expanded functions certification program. The certification will be available in April under the name Certified Preventive Dental Assistant (CPDA). DANB's CPDA certification includes component exams on Coronal Polish, Sealants, Topical Fluoride and Topical Anesthetic.

The certification program was pretested under the name Certified Oral Preventive Assistant (COPA). The CPDA component exams, eligibility requirements and renewal requirements do not differ from the certification that was originally developed under the name COPA.

DANB originally developed the COPA certification in support of the American Dental Association's (ADA) Oral Preventive Assistant (OPA) workforce model, which the ADA's House of Delegates approved in October 2006. However, it came to DANB's attention that the certification program was not in complete alignment with the ADA's OPA workforce model. "DANB selected the CPDA certification mark to allow for flexibility to measure functions desired or performed in the oral healthcare arena that might not be reflected in a specific workforce model or curriculum," explains DANB Executive Director Cindy Durley, M.Ed., MBA.

The dental practice acts in 35 states allow or do not prohibit dental assistants to perform all four of the CPDA functions. These duties are considered expanded functions in most states. Additionally, dental assistants are allowed to:

- Perform coronal polish procedures in 43 states
- Apply topical fluoride in 44 states
- Apply sealants in 37 states
- Apply topical anesthetic in 49 states

"DANB shares state dental boards' public protection mission, and believes there is a great need for these exams," Ms. Durley adds. "Already, DANB has received a positive response from dental assistants, dentists and members of the dental community regarding our plans for this new certification program addressing preventive duties to enhance oral health."

DANB conducted pretesting of qualified candidates for the CPDA certification exam, which includes all four component exams, from July 2010 until December 2010. DANB solicited current DANB CDAs who work in states where all four CPDA functions may be legally delegated to dental assistants to participate in the pretest at no charge.

**"[Holding DANB's CPDA Certification] is a great asset to my career as a dental assistant."
Kelly Ober, CDA, CPDA**

At the time of the pretest, 32 states allowed dental assistants to perform all four functions; all of these states were represented in the data. Pretest candidates were required to meet eligibility requirements, including various combinations of DANB Certification, graduation from a Commission on Dental Accreditation-accredited dental assisting or dental hygiene program, documentation of knowledge- or performance-based competency in the four preventive functions assessed by the CPDA Certification program, and hold current CPR certification. CPDA Certification, like all DANB Certifications, requires annual renewal.

DANB's CPDA Certification exam program will be available to all qualified dental assistants beginning April 2011. The CPDA application packet, with exam fee information and eligibility requirements, will be available on DANB's website mid-March.

New HR Fundamentals Course Receives Positive Reviews

In February, the Dental Assisting National Board, Inc. (DANB) debuted a new e-learning course: DANB's Assessment-Based Certificate Program (ABCP): HR Fundamentals for the Dental Office, an interactive professional development course covering human resources for the dental office.

The online course is designed for dental office managers, dental assistants, receptionists and hygienists. Dentists with varying degrees of knowledge in the human resources of the dental office may also benefit from taking this course. It addresses important information for managing human resources in general dental and dental specialty practices.

During the course, participants learn about planning for current and future staff, and analyzing staffing needs as they relate to office structure and develop clear job descriptions.

Other important topics include identifying legal human resources issues, recognizing components in the interviewing and hiring process, identifying elements of employee benefit and compensation plans, and more. Learners will be able to apply these concepts and obtain resources to use in their dental practices.

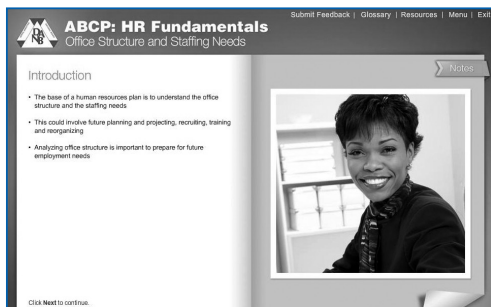
"Human resources management is a critical component to running a successful dental practice," notes Kathy Stack, Assistant Director, Education. "Proper human resources management can increase a dental practice's bottom line, as well as improve overall patient care. We are pleased to deliver this important online course for the dental team."

DANB's ABCP: HR Fundamentals course is a great resource for those new to dental office management, as well as seasoned professionals, such as Inge Carosello. Ms. Carosello, a dental office manager with more than 35 years of experience, says DANB's ABCP: HR Fundamentals course was "informative and challenging," and she would "definitely" encourage others to take it.

Currently, Ms. Carosello is the manager at the dental office of Stephen T. Carosello, D.D.S., in Mentor, Ohio.

She enjoys her career and the fast-paced nature of her work. "Every day is different; I am never bored."

Continuing education and professional development are priorities to Ms. Carosello. She is a member of the American Association of Dental Office Managers (AADOM) and has already completed DANB's ABCP: Accounts Receivable.



When asked what advice she would like to pass on to others in the field, Ms. Carosello says, "I feel the day you think you know everything is the day you should leave. I learn something at every seminar and course, and hope to be doing this for another 35 years."

DANB's ABCP: HR Fundamentals can be purchased at www.danb.org/learning. The course costs \$100, and learners who successfully complete the post-course assessment are able to print a certificate of completion and earn 6 DANB CDE credits.

For AADOM members, DANB's ABCPs also meet one of the requirements for earning Fellowship. Interested dental office managers can learn about AADOM membership and Fellowship in AADOM by visiting www.dentalmanagers.com/danbrequirements.

DANB's ABCP: HR Fundamentals is DANB's fourth online course. DANB's Conventional Dental Radiography Review Course and DANB's ABCP: Accounts Receivable were launched in January 2010, and DANB's RHS Review Course debuted in September 2010. All of DANB's online courses can be purchased at www.danb.org/learning.

In spring 2011, DANB's e-learning courses will be re-branded and launched through the Dental Auxiliary Learning and Education Foundation (The DALE Foundation). The DALE Foundation was incorporated in March 2010, as a DANB-affiliated, but separately incorporated nonprofit foundation. The DALE Foundation was formed to benefit the public by providing quality education and conducting sound research to promote oral health. For more information, visit www.danb.org.

Congratulations to DANB CPDA Certificants

More than 400 candidates participated in the CPDA pretest, held July through December 2010. Pretest candidates represented the 32 states in which all four CPDA functions can be performed. Nearly 200 pretest candidates earned CPDA Certification. Since the pretest concluded, 35 states now allow qualified dental assistants to perform the four functions.

Kelly Ober, CDA, CPDA, of Bellingham, Mass., says she decided to take DANB's CPDA Certification exam to advance her career. "It was a great opportunity to earn another dental assisting credential," she notes.

Ms. Ober has held DANB CDA Certification for 20 years and admits she was nervous sitting for the CPDA Certification exam. However, earning DANB's CPDA Certification was a milestone. "I felt excited, thrilled and honored," she says. "It is a great asset to my career as a dental assistant. Taking the CPDA exam has made me want to take the COA exam and earn another credential."

Karen Johnson, CDA, CPDA, of Westminister, Mass., says after 35 years as a dental assistant, she was ready for a new challenge. DANB's CPDA exam was the professional development opportunity she was looking for. "I was confident that I had the clinical abilities to move forward, [but] the knowledge that I gained during the study process was well worth the time invested," she says.

Since earning CPDA Certification, Ms. Johnson says she is enjoying applying her dental assisting clinical knowledge in new areas. "My value in the office setting has increased tremendously," she notes. "I would recommend this exciting exam to any interested dental assistant."

Disciplinary Policy (cont'd.)

that the following grounds exist for disciplinary action: conviction of a felony, documented evidence of unethical conduct, including assault of a patient and sexual contact with a patient, and violation of DANB's Code of Professional Conduct.

Sanctions: The respondent is permanently ineligible for DANB Certification, DANB exams and other DANB programs; DANB notified the Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners of the adverse disciplinary decision. DANB will publish the disciplinary action, without disclosing the respondent's name, in *Certified Press* and on DANB's website.

Case #3

State: Pennsylvania

Circumstances: A DANB exam candidate disclosed a conviction for felony criminal trespassing.

Grounds for Action: DANB determined that the following grounds exist for disciplinary action: adjudication by a court or governmental regulatory body that the individual has violated a federal or state law, rule or regulation; and conviction of or pleading no contest to a felony.

Sanctions: The respondent was permanently barred from taking any DANB exam. DANB will notify the Pennsylvania State Board of Dentistry of the adverse disciplinary decision. DANB will notify the orthodontist's office where the respondent was completing an externship of the adverse disciplinary action. DANB will publish the disciplinary action, without disclosing the respondent's name, in *Certified Press* and on DANB's website.

Case #4

State: Connecticut

Circumstances: A DANB exam candidate was alleged to have offered a monetary payment to a Pearson VUE Test Administrator (TA) if the TA would ensure the candidate received a passing score on DANB's RHS exam.

Grounds for Action: DANB determined that the respondent had violated DANB's Disciplinary Policy and that the following grounds exist for disciplinary action: violation of DANB's Code of Professional Conduct, engaging in irregular behavior in connection with a DANB
Cont'd on p. 4

Certification Matters

Disciplinary Policy (cont'd.)

exam, violating the security of an exam, attempting to obtain a DANB Certificate of Competency by deceptive means, and documented evidence of unethical conduct related to the practice of dental assisting.

Sanctions: The respondent's eligibility to take DANB's RHS or any other DANB exam was denied for a period of five years. If the respondent reapplies for a DANB exam after the five-year period, she will be required to provide proof that she has satisfactorily completed an ethics course offered by an Academy of General Dentistry (AGD) Program Approval for Continuing Education (PACE)- or American Dental Association (ADA) Continuing Education Recognition Program (CERP)-approved sponsor. The respondent must not engage in any criminal activity or activity constituting grounds for discipline under DANB's *Disciplinary Policy* during this five-year period. If the respondent applies to DANB after the five-year period is complete, the decision to accept or not to accept her application will be at the sole discretion of the DANB Review Panel at that time. DANB will notify the Connecticut State Board of Dentistry of the adverse disciplinary decision. DANB will publish the disciplinary action, without disclosing the respondent's name, in *Certified Press* and on DANB's website.

Case #5

State: Oregon

Circumstances: An individual was accused of misrepresenting herself as a holder of the Oregon Radiologic Proficiency Certificate and submitting a fraudulent certificate in furtherance of that misrepresentation.

Grounds for Action: DANB determined that the respondent had violated DANB's *Disciplinary Policy* and that the following grounds exist for disciplinary action: engaging in dishonest or irregular behavior, manufacturing and using a fraudulent or otherwise unauthorized document conferred by DANB by virtue of a contract with a third-party organization, infringing on DANB's intellectual property rights, failure to cooperate reasonably with a DANB disciplinary investigation, and violation of DANB's *Code of Professional Conduct*.

Sanctions: The respondent was permanently barred from taking any DANB exam. DANB will notify the employer, former employer or prospective employer, and the Oregon Board of Dentistry of the adverse disciplinary decision. DANB will publish the disciplinary action, without disclosing the respondent's name, in *Certified Press* and on DANB's website.

Case #6

State: Massachusetts

Circumstances: An individual was accused of misrepresenting herself as a holder of the Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) Certification and submitting a fraudulent certificate to her employer in furtherance of that misrepresentation.

Grounds for Action: DANB determined that the respondent had violated DANB's *Disciplinary Policy* and that the following grounds exist for disciplinary action: engaging in dishonest or irregular behavior; manufacturing, modifying, reproducing, distributing or using a fraudulent or otherwise unauthorized DANB certificate or DANB designation; infringing on DANB's intellectual property rights; and violation of DANB's *Code of Professional Conduct*.

Sanctions: The respondent was permanently barred from taking any DANB exam. DANB will notify the employer or former employer and the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Dentistry of the adverse disciplinary decision. DANB will publish the disciplinary action, without disclosing the respondent's name, in *Certified Press* and on DANB's website.

DANB's 2011 Recertification Requirements

Renewing DANB Certification

DANB Certification is valid for one year, and must therefore be renewed annually. In order to renew, DANB Certificants are required to complete 12 credits of Continuing Dental Education (CDE), hold a current DANB-accepted CPR certification and submit a renewal fee to DANB. A renewal notice will be mailed approximately six weeks prior to the certification expiration date, which is printed on each DANB certificate. Certificants are asked to sign a statement attesting that CDE and CPR requirements have been met, and to return the statement with the appropriate renewal fee to DANB. Renewal fees are not refundable.

# of Certifications	CDE Credits including CPR	Renewal Fee
1	12 credits	\$55
2	18 credits	\$80
3	24 credits	\$100
4	30 credits	\$125
5	36 credits	\$145

*A \$10 late fee is assessed after the Certificate expiration date, but within the three-month grace period.

If DANB does not receive a response to renewal statement(s) within three months of the expiration date, the Certificant is no longer certified and cannot use the CDA, COA, CPDA, COMSA or CDPMA certification marks. To protect against misuse of DANB credentials, DANB sends reports of lapsed DANB Certificants to state regulatory agencies on a regular basis.

DANB Recertification Policy

Relevance to Practice of Dentistry or Dental Assisting

All CDE must directly relate to the practice of dentistry or dental assisting to maintain or improve dental assisting clinical knowledge. CDE does not need to be pre-approved by DANB in order to be accepted as meeting DANB's *Recertification Requirements*. Call DANB prior to participation in education if you have questions about content.

Length of Program

Programs must be at least 45 minutes in length in order to qualify for one CDE credit. Credit for a CDE course will be calculated in 15-minute increments (i.e., 1 ½ hours = 1.5 CDE credits, 2 ¾ hours = 2.75 CDE credits).

Pre-Certification CDE

Education dated prior to a Certificant's initial certification date cannot be used to meet DANB CDE requirements. Certificants must earn the appropriate number of CDE credits during their first year of certification to maintain DANB Certification.

Release of Information

DANB verifies your certification status by mail or phone to anyone upon request, since the fact that you have or have not been certified and the effective date(s) of your certification are matters of public record and may be disclosed. DANB asks that the *Request for Credential Verification* form be completed before providing an official verification letter to DANB Certificants or employers. DANB may provide online verification on DANB's website of the DANB-administered credentials or Certifications you hold; such verification may consist of online display of your name, credentials held and dates earned, current Certification status, and your city and state of residence. Your full address will not be posted online by DANB. If you do not want DANB to display your city and state of residence as part of the online credential verification process, then you must submit a written request for omission of this information to the address provided below. DANB may, from time to time, provide your name and address along with the names and addresses of Certificants and those holding RHS and/or ICE Certificates of Competency to dentists interested in hiring a DANB individual from their area, and to providers of continuing education opportunities. Your consent to this use will remain in effect unless and until you submit a written request to have this information omitted from release. Written requests to have information omitted from release as provided above must be sent to: DANB Marketing Dept., 444 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 900 Chicago, IL 60611.

Renewal Timeline

This sample timeline illustrates the DANB Certification renewal process. In this example, the individual's CDA certification expires Jan. 15, 2010.

December 1, 2010

A renewal notice is sent to the Certificant.

January 15, 2011

Signed statement and fee are due by this date or DANB Certification expires.

January 16, 2011

Grace period begins. A \$10 late fee is assessed. If the fee is not received, a second notice is sent.

February 28, 2011

Grace period continues. If the fee is not received, the final notice is sent.

March 31, 2011

If the fee is not received, a reminder e-mail is sent to the Certificant.

April 16, 2011

The grace period ends. If the fees and signed statement are not received, the individual is no longer DANB Certified. Call 1-800-367-3232 for reinstatement options.

Requirements/Audit Procedures

DANB's 12 CDE credit annual minimum is consistent with states that have mandatory CDE requirements for dental assistants. The yearly CDE requirement emphasizes the importance of lifelong professional learning and promotes the continued competence of DANB Certified Assistants.

So that DANB Certification continues to be known in the dental community as the *Mark of Dental Assisting Excellence™*, some DANB Certificants are randomly selected for verification (audit) of their CDE credits and CPR. Those selected for audit will be considered certified during the time that they are providing proof of their continuing education.

Specific instructions will be sent to those audited. Upon successful completion of the audit, certification will be instated for the full year. Proof of continuing education should be retained for two years, in case of subsequent audit. DO NOT SEND DOCUMENTATION UNLESS REQUESTED. DANB WILL NOT RETURN OR RETAIN MATERIALS.

DANB Renewal Fee Increases

As a reminder, at the August 2009 Annual Meeting, DANB's Board of Directors approved a small renewal fee increase to take effect Jan. 1, 2012. DANB has not raised renewal fees since 2007. Therefore, these increases were approved to keep up with the always-increasing cost of doing business. In 2012, renewal fees will be \$60, effective with Certificants whose expiration date is Jan. 1, 2012, or thereafter.

CDE Lifespan

Education has a two-year lifespan. Certificants who carry over credits into the next renewal year must retain proof of 24 credits of CDE over a two-year period, in case they are chosen by DANB for audit.

Multiple Certifications

It is possible to be certified in each of four areas: CDA, COA, CPDA, COMSA and CDPMA. Renewal requirements are set at an approximately 50 percent increase over basic requirements for each additional certification maintained.

Renewal Timing and Certification Expiration

A three-month CDE grace period is granted if the required CDE credits are not accumulated and the appropriate fee is not received by the expiration date. An individual is considered certified during this three-month CDE grace period; however, a late fee of \$10 will be assessed. If DANB does not receive a response to renewal statement(s) within three months of the certificant's

expiration date, the individual is no longer certified and cannot use the CDA, COA, CPDA, COMSA or CDPMA certification marks. DANB's certification marks are registered with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, and only those individuals who have earned and maintained the marks are legally authorized to use them.

Misrepresentation of DANB Certification Marks

Misuse of any DANB certification mark is grounds for discipline under DANB's *Discipline Policies and Procedures* (contact DANB for a copy). For reinstatement of a certification mark, contact DANB at 1-800-367-3262, ext. 445, or e-mail vspears@danb.org.

Review and Appeal Policy and Procedures

A copy of DANB's *Review and Appeal Policy and Procedures* is available at www.danb.org.

Recertification can be earned through accumulating the required number of CDE credits and paying the appropriate renewal fee. It is the responsibility of the Certificant to obtain and retain documentation that verifies participation in all CDE activities that will be used for renewal credit. All documentation must indicate name, Certification number, name of sponsor, date of course, number of CDE credits, subject matter, program title and program presenter. To renew CPDA Certification, the Certificant must earn 12 CDE credits in categories related to the clinical practice of dentistry or dental assisting. This includes categories 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 from DANB's *Recertification Requirements*.

Categories for CDE Credits

1. Mandatory CPR Certification CDE Credits: Maximum 4 credits

Accepted Documentation:

Copy of front and back of a current CPR card from one of the organizations listed below. The card must be dated and signed, or imprinted with the instructor's name, and have the Certificant's name or signature on the card.

Additional Information:

Current certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) is required for annual renewal of DANB certification. Certificants may earn a maximum of four CDE credits annually (credit depends on the length of the course and may be less for refresher courses) for successful completion of a CPR certification course that includes a hands-on examination provided by the organizations below. Courses from organizations other than those approved by DANB or course offerings from approved organizations without a hands-on examination will not be accepted. Certificants may only count the CDE credits in the year CPR is earned.

Note: Two-year CPR card holders can only apply the credits to recertification in the year CPR is earned. In the second year, CPR credits will not count, and the Certificant must earn the full number of credits from other categories.

DANB-Accepted CPR Providers:

- American Environmental Health and Safety
- American Heart Association
- American Red Cross
- American Safety and Health Institute
- Canadian Red Cross
- Emergency Care and Safety Institute
- Emergency First Response
- Emergency Medical Training Associates
- Emergency University - Not all courses include the hands-on exam, so check with provider before taking course to be sure it will be accepted by DANB.
- Medic First Aid
- Military Training Network
- National Safety Council (Green Cross)
- ProCPR - Not all courses include the hands-on exam, so check with provider before taking course to be sure it will be accepted by DANB.
- Saudi Heart Association

DANB accepts CPR certifications from the providers above if the Certificant was given a hands-on exam. CPR must be part of the course. CPR certification from other providers or courses will not be accepted.

2. Clinical Courses, Seminars, Home Study Courses, Table Clinics and Exhibits

CDE Credits: Clock-hour-for-clock-hour (no maximum)
Exhibit Credits: Maximum 2 credits (1 credit per meeting)

Accepted Documentation:

Certificate of completion, DANB approval code, letter of attendance/completion, meeting badge (exhibits), meeting badge/program page (table clinics or free on-site lecture), CDE printout from meeting, or similar documentation.

Additional Information:

Clinical courses are lectures, courses, seminars, home study courses (text, video and internet based), and/or table clinics that are directly related to the clinical practice of dentistry or dental assisting. This category includes, but is not limited to, attendance at, or participation in, clinical professional development courses that are directly related to clinical knowledge that would be chairside: dental materials, four-handed dentistry, infection control, radiology, expanded functions, non-human dentistry (i.e., canine and feline dentistry) and others. See Category 3 for non-clinical practice management information. For each clock hour that you attend and/or participate in one of these sessions you will receive one CDE credit. Additionally, a maximum of one credit may be earned for reviewing exhibits at dental and/or dental assisting meetings sponsored by recognized dental groups. This can be done a maximum of twice each year at two different meetings. All DANB-required CDE credits can be clinical in nature.

3. Non-Clinical Courses, Seminars, Home Study Courses and Table Clinics

CDE Credits: 3 Credits for CDAs, COAs and COMSAs
6 Credits for CDPMAs

Accepted Documentation:

Certificate of completion, DANB approval code, letter of attendance/completion, meeting badge (exhibits), meeting badge/program page (table clinics or free on-site lecture), CDE printout from meeting, or similar documentation.

Additional Information:

Non-clinical courses are lectures, courses, seminars, home study courses (text, video and internet based), and/or table clinics that are directly related to dental practice management/practice communication services: practice management, HIPAA, stress management, patient and staff motivation, computer courses (college class, software training, etc.), insurance, claims/billing, foreign language studies, American Sign Language, and non-scientific-related college courses. This category also includes courses and seminars covering dental practice acts and trends in dental assisting. These courses must be directly related to allowable duties for dental assistants.

4. Video or Audio Tapes from Convention Seminars

CDE Credits: 3 Credits

Accepted Documentation:

Copy of the 250-word essay highlighting the meeting and course name.

Additional Information:

Certificants may earn a maximum of three CDE credits annually by viewing or listening to a taped CDE course presented at a local, state, regional or national dental meeting and writing a minimum 250-word summary of that course presentation.

5. Reading

CDE Credits: 2 Credits

- Maximum of one credit for reading
- Additional one credit for written summary per below

Accepted Documentation:

Written log of articles and copy of each 50-word article summary or 250-word textbook summary. Educators may submit a copy of the completed publisher's evaluation form for any materials evaluated for adoption.

Additional Information:

Certificants may earn a maximum of one CDE credit annually by reading at least six technical/dental articles published within their renewal period or one dental textbook, published within the past five years. Community libraries, dental offices and the Internet are convenient sources of books and journals. To record reading activity, a log must be maintained that includes title of book or article, name of journal, author, and date of publication. This written log earns the certificant one CDE credit. Certificants may earn an additional one CDE credit annually for writing at least a 50-word summary of each article or at least a 250-word summary of the textbook, highlighting the relevance of the information to the dental assisting profession. The accepted documentation is a written log of articles and copy of each 50-word article summary or 250-word textbook summary.

Dental assisting educators teaching at least half-time may earn a maximum of three CDE credit credits annually by reviewing new reference materials (textbooks, CD ROMs, audiovisuals, etc.) for possible adoption into their curriculum. The accepted documentation is a copy of the completed publisher's evaluation form for any materials evaluated for adoption.

6. DANB Exams

CDE Credits: 12 Credits

Accepted Documentation:

Copy of certificate or official DANB Score Report.

Additional Information:

Twelve CDE credits are awarded for each DANB-administered examination successfully completed, *excluding the first time a certification exam is passed*. These examinations include any DANB national examination, DANB Professional Development Exam Program (PDEP), or any DANB state or agency-contracted examination that consists of at least 100 items. Four CDE credits are awarded for each DANB-administered state or agency-contracted examination that is less than 100 items. Successful completion of non-DANB developed dental-related professionally proctored exams (consisting of at least 100 questions) will be awarded hour-for-hour credit, for the amount of time designated for the completion of the exam. If no time is specified, one credit will be allowed for every 100 questions.

7. Community Participation

CDE Credits: 3 Credits

-Maximum of two credits for participation

-Additional one credit for written summary per below

Accepted Documentation:

Certificate of completion, letter of attendance/participation or similar documentation.

Additional Information:

Certificants may earn a maximum of two CDE credits by participating in dental-related community service and an additional one CDE credit for writing at least a 250-word essay on how the volunteer service benefited the Certificant's professional growth. Examples include: international/national mission work, voluntary clinic work, or dental health presentations to students or groups. Community participation does not include activities such as serving on a dental assisting program advisory committee or as an officer and/or committee chair for a national, state or local dental assisting organization. Volunteer time should be at minimum two credits. DANB will publicly recognize Certificants who complete and provide proof of mission work.

8. College Courses

CDE Credits: No maximum

Accepted Documentation:

Grade report, transcript, letter of verification from instructor on school letterhead

Additional Information:

CDE credits are awarded for each scientific-oriented college credit/unit successfully completed at the following levels:

- 3 College Credits/Units = 12 CDE credits
- 2 College Credits/Units = 6 CDE credit
- 1 College Credit/Unit = 3 CDE credits

Certificants may earn all 12 CDE credits required annually by DANB if they are currently enrolled in a college program to earn an undergraduate or graduate degree, but this option can be used for no more than five consecutive years. Twelve CDE credits per year may be earned if enrolled at least half time (earning three or more college credits/units) in a B.A., B.S., M.A. or other recognized degree program. Accepted documentation is a document from the college registrar's office indicating currently enrolled status. College courses must be medical (including but not limited to dentistry, dental assisting, dental hygiene, nursing, anatomy/physiology, all biology, all chemistry, nutrition) or business (including but not limited to human resources, accounting, office management, business law) related. To avoid non-acceptance of credits, call DANB to ascertain whether a course is acceptable and at what CDE credit level.

9. Scholarly Activity

CDE Credits: 3 Credits

Accepted Documentation:

Course outline/catalog, copy of program brochure listing the Certificant as instructor, copy of published article, including name and date of publication), letter from DANB, document from college registrar's office indicating currently enrolled status.

Additional Information:

Certificants may earn a maximum of three CDE credits annually for each of the following scholarly activities:

- Teach a professional course directly related to dentistry or dental assisting or present a CDE program, either of which are outside of the Certificant's normal employment teaching responsibilities. Accepted documentation includes course outline/catalog, or a copy of program brochure listing the Certificant as instructor.
- Author a published article in a recognized dental or dental assisting journal. Accepted documentation includes a copy of the published article, including name and date of publication.
- Participate in a DANB Exam Committee, PDEP development (Note: PDEP development participants cannot use PDEP to renew), or receive one CDE credit for every two exam items accepted by DANB. Accepted documentation is a letter from DANB.

Spotlight on Excellence

DANB Certificants Achieve Dental Assisting Milestones

This year, many DANB Certificants reached milestone anniversaries. Over 33,000 DANB Certificants are renewing their Certification each year. More than 1,600 Certificants have been DANB Certified for five years, and 500 have held Certification for 20 years. In fact, three DANB Certificants will reach their 50-year anniversaries in 2011, joining seven current CDAs who have already surpassed that mark. DANB is proud of its Certificants' commitment to dental assisting excellence.

Ms. Carole Falkner, CDA, is one of the Certificants who celebrated her 50-year DANB Certification anniversary. She says earning DANB Certification has been a source of pride in her career. "DANB Certification reinforces your sense of professionalism, and it often leads to a higher salary," she explains. "I highly recommend that all dental assistants and students work toward DANB Certification."

She also recommends becoming involved in the community through American Dental Assistants Association (ADAA) membership and attending dental meet-

ings, adding, "The more active you are in your career, the more you get out of it."

Ms. Falkner's interest in dental assisting was sparked at 14 years old, when she helped her dentist around the office for a day. "I fell in love with the field right then," she recounts.

That same dentist served as a sponsor for Ms. Falkner when she enrolled in Marquette University's dental assisting program in 1958. Shortly after graduation, Ms. Falkner returned to the dental assisting program to complete the university's new four-handed dentistry program. "At that time, using high-speed handpieces and sitting chairside was a new approach to dentistry," she explains. "Marquette's dental assisting program was one of the first of its kind."

After completing the program, Ms. Falkner took a position in a private dental practice, where she remained for 10 years. During that time, she became active in the ADAA, serving as president of the Wisconsin chapter.

A few years later, when a position opened up at Lakeshore Technical Institute in Sheboygan, Wis., Ms. Falkner began her career as an educator. Throughout the next several years, she moved to Texas, received training in expanded functions and became a site visitor for the American Dental Association's Commission on Dental Accreditation, helping to write the accreditation standards for dental assisting programs.

Currently, Ms. Falkner lives in Florida with her husband. After teaching in Florida for more than 20 years, Ms. Falkner returned to private practice. "My heart has always been in dental assisting," she says. "I've always kept up my DANB Certification, and encouraged that path for my students."

In fact, Ms. Falkner says she still has her original DANB certificate and pin. "I'm very proud of my certification and couldn't have a career in education without it," she notes. "Receiving the recognition certificate and commemorative brick on my 50th anniversary was a very special gift."

In Memory of Anna Nelson: Pillar of the Dental Assisting Community



Dedicated educator and lifelong learner Anna Nelson, CDA, RDA, M.A., passed away in her home on Jan. 18, 2011. She is predeceased by her parents Milo and Bea Nelson. Ms. Nelson left behind many friends and relatives, including brother Norman Nelson and his wife Delia, sister Karen Fraser and her husband Jim, and nephew

Erik Nelson and his wife Heather.

Born on May 27, 1950, Ms. Nelson found dental assisting as her calling early in life. She graduated from the City College of San Francisco's (CCSF) dental assisting program in 1971 and earned DANB Certification the same year. Ms. Nelson went on to San Francisco State University to earn a bachelor's degree in health education, followed by a master's in educational technology. She also earned the California Lifetime Teaching Credential from the University of California at Berkeley.

Ms. Nelson began her career as an educator at the College of the Redwoods in 1976. She moved on to CCSF in 1985, where she retired in 2010 as director of the dental assisting program. She served as a commissioner of the American Dental Association's Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) and chaired CODA's Dental Assistant Review Committee. Ms. Nelson was involved with the Colgate Oral Systemic Advisory Board and an active member of the California Association of Dental Assisting Teachers (CADAT).

A lifetime member of the American Dental Assistants Association (ADAA) and active within the California Dental Assistants Association (CDAA), Ms. Nelson held various offices on local, state and national levels, including ADAA past president. "Anna gave so

much to serving her association, lending support for colleagues and inspiring students," says ADAA President Natalie Kaweckyj, CDA, CDPMA, COA, COMSA, CPDA, LDARF, MADAA, B.A. "Anna was a role model for many, and extremely passionate about everything related to dental assisting."

Ms. Nelson made a tremendous impact on many dental assistants, including CDAA President Kristy Borquez, CDA, RDAEF, FADAA, who met Ms. Nelson at a dental assisting conference more than 30 years ago. It was at Ms. Nelson's encouragement that Ms. Borquez felt confident to step into leadership positions in the ADAA. "Anna was a great mentor and I was proud to have her as my installing officer when I became president of ADAA," she says.

Ms. Kaweckyj first met Ms. Nelson at an ADAA Annual Conference and recalls her unwavering dedication. "I remember seeing her speak on a debated issue on the House of Delegate's floor and was in awe at how passionate was," Ms. Kaweckyj says. "She was never afraid to speak in opposition, or in general, speak her mind."

Ms. Nelson's commitment helped advance the profession. "Anna was a true pioneer when it came to licensure for California," Ms. Borquez says. "She fought for crucial legislation, which led to the implementation of the [Registered Dental Assistant and Registered Dental Assistant in Expanded Functions licenses]."

But, more than a colleague, Ms. Nelson was also a friend. "If any friend of Anna's needed something, she was there to help you get it," Ms. Borquez says. "All of us involved with the CDAA Board of Directors feel like we are a family, and we all share a great loss with Anna's passing."

CADAT President Judy Diane Bock, CDA, RDA, B.S., M.A., met Ms. Nelson at a meeting of the Dental Board

of California. Ms. Bock remembers her boldness, energy and spirit. "Anna had a great love for life and her career," Ms. Bock recounts. "The contributions she made for dental assisting are too numerous to mention. She loved her students; she was involved in public policy, student scholarships and promoting dental assisting."

Ms. Nelson's influence as an educator and mentor was vast. Ms. Kaweckyj notes early in her teaching career, she turned to Ms. Nelson for wisdom and inspiration. "Because of Anna, I became a better dental assistant, a passionate educator, and inspired in my various roles of leadership," Ms. Kaweckyj says. "Anna opened her heart to all. Her laugh was infectious, her smile genuine and her enthusiasm momentous."

The generosity and zeal Ms. Nelson possessed were remarkable, Ms. Bock says. "Anna was always willing to help in any capacity. I think she would want the future dental assistants to stay in the field, and be creative and supportive of dental assisting."

"Anna was such a big part of many dental assistants' lives," Ms. Kaweckyj says. "Her loss is felt industry-wide, but she will never be forgotten."

The staff at DANB was stunned and saddened to hear of Ms. Nelson's passing. "When I think of Anna, I think of her energy, her smile and her passion for the dental assisting profession, especially her students," says Executive Director Cindy Durley, M.Ed., MBA. "My thoughts, and those of the Boards and staff of DANB and the DALE Foundation, are with Anna's family at this time."

Tributes can be paid at Ms. Nelson's memorial website at www.forevermissed.com/Anna-Nelson/# or sign the guest book at www.legacy.com. Donations in Ms. Nelson's name can be made to the American Dental Assistants Association Foundation or the City College of San Francisco Dental Assistant Program.

Through word-of-mouth, Ms. Harper's "Tooth Tutor" e-mail address has spread, and she has become a well-known source in the community for dental assistants or students who need additional help preparing for the DANB exam.

"I strongly encourage all dental assistants to become DANB Certified and to never let the Certification go," she says. "I hope one day all states will require DANB Certification. No matter how much the dental assisting field changes, it continues to be about the patient and promoting oral healthcare."

In addition to teaching and tutoring, Ms. Harper is an active member in the American Dental Assistants Association (ADAA) and currently serves as President of the Tennessee Dental Assistants Association. Her past accolades include receiving the 2007 ADAA Fourth District Award of Excellence and the Tennessee Higher Education Commission's 2009 Herald Love Community Service Award.

Harper Wins Most Effective Educator Award



Janice Harper, CDA, RDA, was named the 2011 winner of the "Most Effective Dental Assistant Educator" award. Ms. Harper has worked as an educator for more than seven years, devoting her time to helping others succeed in the dental assisting profession and in her community.

She was nominated and selected by members of DrBicuspid.com, an online community for dental professionals. DrBicuspid.com's "Dental Excellence Awards" featured 117 nominations in 12 categories, including the most influential dental assisting educator.

Ms. Harper, who did not know she was a candidate for the award, says she was surprised and shocked by the nomination. "One of my students sent me a text mes-

sage telling me I had reached the semifinals for the award," she says. "When I went to the website, I found out that I had won and was thrilled."

Ms. Harper has been a dental assisting instructor at her alma mater, Tennessee Technology Center at Memphis since 2003. Before teaching, she worked at the Memphis Veteran's Administration Hospital in oral surgery for six years. "I received a phone call from my past instructor at the Tennessee Technology Center and was offered the dental assisting instructor position, which I gladly accepted," she notes.

In her role as instructor at Tennessee Technology Center, Ms. Harper has helped to develop the school's dental assisting program at its Memphis location. The yearlong dental assisting program accepts 30 students and is accredited by the American Dental Association's Commission on Dental Accreditation. After students complete the dental assisting program they are eligible to take DANB's CDA exam.

Community Nurse Dental Clinic Hosts the DALE Foundation's Photo Shoot

Last December, staff members of the Dental Auxiliary Learning and Education Foundation (The DALE Foundation) headed to La Grange, Ill., for an all-day photo shoot at the Community Nurse Health Association's (CNHA) dental clinic. The DALE Foundation, along with partner NogginLabs, took photos depicting a dental healthcare setting using appropriate infection control protocol and abiding by national standards.

The DALE Foundation will use the images in its online products for dental auxiliaries, including the upcoming DANB Infection Control Review, online flash cards to illustrate correct application of personal protective equipment and other important dental assisting procedures, and on the DALE Foundation's soon-to-be-launched website and marketing materials.

"We chose the Community Nurse Health Association's dental clinic because the facility is beautiful, clean and bright," Cindy Durley, M.Ed., MBA, Executive Director of DANB and the DALE Foundation, explains. "DANB also selected CNHA because its mission of enhancing the community through access to dental healthcare is so important to both the community and the oral healthcare profession."

"We are thrilled that we were selected," notes Shirly Cannon, CNHA Dental Services Manager. "We give back to the community by providing oral healthcare and now we can give back to the dental assistant profession by providing resources for staff development and continuing education."



Judith Dean, D.D.S., a contracted Community Nurse provider, was instrumental in bringing all the components together to make the shoot possible and served as the key subject matter expert for photo content. Ms. Cannon coordinated the opportunity and staffing, and dental assistants Blanca Cabrera and Esmeralda Herrera modeled in the photos.

"The photo shoot was an opportunity for our agency to promote the profession of dental assisting, which I have been part of for over 35 years," Ms. Cannon says. "I am very proud of our program, and our facility. It may be small in square footage, but it's huge in services provided to those in need."

Since 1921, CNHA has provided quality healthcare to lower income and uninsured residents of the western suburbs of Chicago. The CNHA dental clinic – which is staffed by both volunteer and contracted dentists, dental hygienists and dental assistants – provides complete dental care to more than 1,275 children and adults each year.

The dental team focuses on prevention through education and seeing patients on a regular basis. Services include exams and assessments; preventive, restorative and diagnostic procedures; and oral health education. "Community Nurse has provided care for so many individuals, improving their oral health, self-esteem and overall well-being," Ms. Cannon says.

Currently, CNHA is working to increase the number of individuals and families it can serve. The organization is attempting to secure funding to increase hours of operation and possibly expand to a larger facility with more treatment areas. Ms. Cannon notes CNHA's ultimate vision is to provide care for all low-income, uninsured families in the community. For more information, visit www.communitynurse.org.

CNHA Celebrates Give Kids a Smile Day

The American Dental Association's Give Kids a Smile Day is an annual one-day volunteer initiative to provide preventive and restorative services to children from low-income families. This year, the nationwide event was held on Feb. 4.

Community Nurse Health Association (CNHA) dental clinic in LaGrange, Ill., has been celebrating Give Kids a Smile Day since its inception. This year, at CNHA's dental clinic, two dentists, four dental hygienists and three dental assistants saw 45 children for complete care. Patients received a dental care goodie bag to take home.

To entertain the young patients, the clinic hosted a puppet show, games and activities in the reception area (pictured).



DANB staff chose CNHA's work during Give Kids a Smile Day as the charity for voluntary holiday giving, and made personal contributions of nearly \$1,000.

Homeless Not Toothless Turns 20

Homeless Not Toothless, a nonprofit program that provides free dental care to the homeless and under-served, will be celebrating its 20th anniversary in April. The program, founded in California by Dr. Jay Grossman, has provided more than \$2 million in dental service to homeless patients.

One of the main goals of Homeless Not Toothless is to provide patients with new smiles so they can begin job interviews with confidence. Before being referred to a Homeless Not Toothless office, the patient's dental needs are assessed by a referring agency. Dr. Grossman says most patients are referred by the Venice Family Clinic, one of the largest free dental clinics in the nation, as well as local shelters and substance abuse programs.

There are currently more than 35 participating dental offices in the greater Los Angeles area, and celebrities including Sharon Stone, Larry King, Felicity Huffman and Bill Macy have provided their endorsements to raise awareness about



Dr. Grossman (center) with young patients from the dental clinic.

the program. Dental offices that are interested in participating in the program are asked to treat a minimum of one homeless patient per month. "A minimal investment of time and resources can make a huge difference in getting somebody the chance to be a contributing member of society," Dr. Grossman notes.

In addition to the Homeless Not Toothless program, Dr. Grossman also recently opened a dental clinic for foster children just outside of Los Angeles. The clinic's vision is to one day provide complete dental care to all 28,000 foster children in Los Angeles County.

The rapid growth of the organization indicates the size of the need for volunteer dental services in the homeless community, Dr. Grossman notes, and his dream is to expand nationwide. "I have only started," he says. "I'm going to take this model and replicate it throughout the United States."

For more information, visit www.homelessnottoothless.org.

Air Force Dental Students Work Toward DANB Certification

On Dec. 15, 2010, 19 Airmen were honored for completing the U.S. Air Force dental assisting coursework at San Antonio, Texas. The class ceremony was held at the Medical Education and Training Campus at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Course completion certificates were presented by Major General Gerard Caron, Assistant Surgeon General for Dental Services; Chief Master Sergeant Thomas Davis; Chief Master Sergeant (Retired) Michael Brouillard; American Dental Assistants Association President Natalie Kaweckyj, CDA, CDP-MA, COA, COMSA, CPDA, LDARF, MADAA, B.A.; and DANB Executive Director Cindy Durley, M.Ed., MBA.

Chief Master Sergeant Davis, who currently oversees the Air Force Dental Service (AFDS), says the ceremony was particularly significant because this was the first class to complete the program since it moved from the Wichita Falls, Texas, facility to San Antonio last fall. "The students will forever carry the distinction of being the first class through the new schoolhouse," notes Chief Master Sergeant Davis. "For the instructors and leadership, the ceremony marked the culmination of several years of planning and executing the schoolhouse's move to its new location. It was a great feeling to see the efforts of so many pay off in such a positive way." The class was challenged early on to concentrate on their studies and work as a team to ensure everyone graduated, Chief Master Sergeant Davis says. "They did just that, and I'm very proud of their accomplishment."

Of the 19 dental assisting students in the class, six passed DANB's Infection Control (ICE) exam, and six passed both Radiation Health and Safety (RHS) and

ICE exams, all earning DANB Certificates of Competency. Airmen Vance Besler, Scott Cross, Victoria Farmer, Skyler Moderow, Kennedy Ohaegbu and Chelsea Orr (pictured) passed both RHS and ICE exams.

Under the initial leadership of Chief Master Sergeant (Retired) Brouillard in 2007, DANB has been collaborating with the AFDS to administer the RHS and ICE exams, leading to Certificates of Competency in these two important areas of dental assisting. In early 2009, DANB began administering its ICE exam to AFDS students, followed by the RHS exam in early 2010.

AFDS graduates are also eligible to take DANB's General Chairside exam at the conclusion of their education program, because the AFDS dental assisting program is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation. Air Force dental students who pass all three component exams earn DANB's Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) Certification.

"This partnership between DANB and the Air Force to administer DANB exams helps the AFDS to assess the preparation of these airmen in dental assisting as compared to the national civilian standards," Ms. Durley says. "DANB has been consistently impressed with the AFDS program, its leaders and its facilities.

This collaborative AFDS-DANB initiative will help airmen to plan ahead for a smooth transition from military life to a rewarding civilian career in oral health care."

"We've given each student the necessary knowledge and skills to be successful not only as dental assistants, but also as airmen in the U.S. Air Force," Chief Master Sergeant Davis stresses. "The students have exciting opportunities ahead of them in their Air Force careers, and we encourage the students to embrace those opportunities and make the most of them."



Chief Master Sergeant Tom Davis (back row, left), DANB Executive Director Cindy Durley (front row, left), Chief Master Sergeant (Retired) Michael Brouillard (back row, right), Major General Gerard Caron (back row, second right), with AFDS students who passed DANB's RHS and ICE exams.

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DANB Details

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You Could Be Next!

Congratulations to Suzanne Piwonski, CDA, of Sterling Heights, Mich.; Elizabeth Long, CDA, of Dunlap, Tenn.; and Karen Griffith, COA, of Millville, Pa., who recognized their DANB Certification numbers in the winter 2011 *Certified Press*.

If your certification number matches one of the randomly selected numbers below, you can win a \$50 prize. Notify the DANB Marketing Department at haronovich@danb.org within 30 days to claim your \$50 prize. Be sure to include your name, address and certification number.

108936 156979 200269
065811 200171 208238

DANB Wants to Hear from You!

DANB wants to hear about your Dental Assistants Recognition Week celebrations! Share your stories of recognizing dental assisting excellence, and we'll feature them in the spring issue! E-mail your news to haronovich@danb.org or call 1-800-367-3262, ext. 417.

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DANB's Mission

DANB's mission is to promote the public good by providing credentialing services to the dental community. We accomplish and measure the success of this mission through the creation of valid dental assisting exams, recertification requirement integrity, and valuable, visible, and accessible DANB exams, certificates, and certifications. We also provide testing services to the oral healthcare community, and information services and resources related to dental assisting credentialing to support DANB's mission. In order to accomplish these critical outcomes, DANB is committed to a properly governed, financially secure, and administratively sound organization.