



Certified Press

Measuring Dental Assisting Excellence™

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DANB To Produce Online Education Beginning with Dental Radiography and Dental Office Management Topics

The work of DANB's Board of Directors and of the DANB staff is governed overall by the DANB mission. To determine whether or not to initiate new products and services, and when, is established through strategic planning by DANB's Strategic Planning and Marketing Committee.

DANB's Mission

DANB's mission is to promote the public good by providing credentialing services to the dental community. DANB accomplishes and measures the success of this mission through

- The creation of valid dental assisting exams
- Recertification process integrity
- Valuable, visible, and accessible DANB exams
- The provision of testing services to the oral health care community, and
- The provision of information services and resources related to dental assisting credentialing and recertification

The Strategic Planning and Marketing Committee is composed of members of DANB's Board of Directors, DANB consultants, and various DANB staff members across departments.

Over the past three years, DANB has been contacted by a variety of organizations, associations, and the military to develop educational modules to meet a variety of stakeholder needs. Some national and state dental associations and state dental boards have asked DANB to develop exam preparation materials in the form of online review courses, as well as in-person courses to be presented at national and state dental association meetings and conferences.

The United States Air Force had asked DANB to develop an online educational module to supplement the Air Force Dental Services (AFDS) dental technician curriculum, in the area of conventional radiography. AFDS dental technicians need this supplementary educational information because the AFDS dental technician curriculum teaches digital radiography only.

The AFDS requires all of its dental technicians to take DANB's Radiation Health and

Safety (RHS) examination, which tests dental assistant competencies in all areas of dental radiation health and safety, not just knowledge of digital radiographic techniques. In order to have an opportunity to be successful on the RHS exam, the AFDS dental technicians need to also be exposed to information on conventional radiography.

In addition, the American Association of Dental Office Managers (AADOM) approached DANB to see if AADOM and DANB could collaborate on a professional designation for dental office managers.

In evaluating the results of focus groups and surveys of AADOM and ADA members and DANB Certified Dental Practice Management Administrators (CDPMAs), AADOM decided to establish a Fellowship program, using DANB Assessment-Based Certificate Programs (ABCPs) as its foundation. (See the Fall 2009 issue of *Certified Press* for more information on DANB ABCPs and AADOM Fellowship.)

As it does for each new product or service under consideration, before the DANB Board of Directors agreed to pursue this new stakeholder service, the DANB Board spent time determining if online education (e-learning) was within the DANB mission and aligned with one or more of DANB's strategic priorities for 2008-2010. DANB's Board determined that e-learning would be aligned primarily with this part of the DANB mission: "the provision of information services and resources related to dental assisting credentialing and recertification."

In addition, if e-learning was structured to include pre- and post-tests developed according to national testing and measurement

Call for Comments On Recertification Requirements

DANB is requesting comments on its Recertification Requirements, including the CDE categories, from current DANB Certificants. DANB's Board of Directors will then review and possibly revise the Recertification Requirements at its August Board meeting. Any revisions will go into effect in 2010 at the earliest.

Please visit www.danb.org for information on how to submit your comments. The deadline to comment is July 10, 2009. See pages 4-5 for DANB's Recertification Requirements, including DANB's Revised CPR Requirements on page 5.

standards, the Assessment-Based Certificate Programs (ABCPs) would meet these aspects of the DANB mission: "the creation of valid dental assisting exams," "valuable, visible and accessible DANB exams," and "the provision of testing services to the oral healthcare community." The development of e-learning modules will assist DANB in meeting all four of DANB's strategic priorities for 2008-2010: Visibility, Accessibility, Testing Growth and Diversity, and Collaboration.

DANB's Strategic Priorities, 2008-2010

Visibility: DANB Certification will be acknowledged by the dental community as the standard used to measure competency for dental assistants.

Accessibility: DANB will enhance accessibility to its exams.

Testing Growth and Diversity: DANB will increase the number and type of dental exams it provides.

Collaboration: DANB will collaborate with dental membership organizations and testing agencies in order to enhance the effective, efficient, and safe delivery of dental care with respect to the role of dental assistants.

In developing new products and services, DANB staff also takes into consideration what is required to maintain accreditation of DANB's certification programs. The National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA), the agency that accredits DANB's certification programs, notes that as long as

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DANB Chooses NogginLabs To Lead E-Learning

Chicago-based NogginLabs will create custom, performance-based curricula for DANB. DANB believes that NogginLabs' emphasis on developing realistic activities, scenarios, and role-plays which mimic the work environment will be especially appropriate for the practice of dental assisting.

"The NogginLabs approach is to teach, then practice. Those taking the conventional radiography module will first learn about placing

films in the mouth, then will be able to practice placing films through the use of computer simulations," explained DANB Chief Operating Officer Liz Koch.

NogginLabs is the e-learning industry's most award-winning architect, with clients such as Dell, McDonald's, Northwestern University, Capital One, JetBlue and Abbott Laboratories .



Turn to page 7 to read about Cascade Job Corps' DARW celebrations!

Word from the Chair



Brenda Fell, CDA, CDPMA Chair, DANB Board of Directors

As you have probably noticed, DANB has made significant design changes to the *Certified Press*. These visual changes come on the heels of efforts by DANB over the past year to deliver compelling articles about DANB, enjoyable human-interest stories and photos, and useful news about the dental profession, industry, medical/dental research and allied organizations.

The new brand design, which brings to mind DANB's triangular logo, is meant to mirror the changes in content already underway – simple, contemporary, professional and accessible. Those of us on the DANB Board of Directors, who are invested in developing this new DANB brand, hope you find it easy-to-read, and continue to find the *Certified Press* one of the most valuable benefits of DANB Certification.

As my term as Board Director and Chair draws to a close, I feel deep pride in the role I have played, along with the other Board Directors, in laying the groundwork to progress toward meeting DANB's strategic priorities of visibility, accessibility, collaboration, and testing growth and diversity.

Recently, DANB has made great headway on numerous initiatives that relate to its priorities. On page 1, you can read about DANB's online education materials, which will increase testing diversity. DANB's CDA/GC Exam Pilot Pathway study, featured on page 3, is aimed at making DANB exams more accessible to dental assisting students. DANB has extended its branding efforts to increase its visibility at tradeshow, and in the Convention Corner on page 6, you can check out DANB's upcoming tradeshow schedule. Lastly, page 7 highlights DANB's collaboration with the military to administer DANB exams.

These projects could not come to fruition without the selfless efforts of the Board of Directors. This group, along with DANB staff, has been wonderful to work with, and I have no doubt that the future of DANB holds many more exciting initiatives.

Have a great summer!

Brenda Fell, CDA, CDPMA

DANB's 2009 State Books are Summer Stars!

DANB's 2009 State Fact Booklet provides current state requirements and excerpts from State Practice Acts related to dental assisting. It also features State Board of Dentistry contact information, accepted/required DANB exams, the number of DANB Certificants in each state, a list of CODA-accredited programs, and comparative salary information.

DANB's 2009 State Dental Assistant Career Ladder Templates is a reader-friendly guide outlining education/exam requirements, prohibited and allowable dental assisting functions, job titles, and career opportunities for dental assistants in all 50 states.

Download your order form at www.danb.org
Or call 1-800-FOR-DANB

Congratulations to Emeritus Certificants

Feb. 1, 2009 - Apr. 30, 2009

Name/State	Certification Date
Shannon Balletto, MA	07/19/1974
Gail Bierman, PA	12/31/1964
Gail Campbell, UT	04/08/1980
Nancy Collins, MA	08/01/1986
Lorna Klahn, NE	09/07/1983
Diane Parker, OR	04/20/1998
Rona Staberg, TX	12/31/1969
Valerie Stinnett, TX	09/22/1980
Lyndalee Titus, NJ	07/24/1992
Loraine Westhafer, CA	10/11/1971

Dental Briefs

Reason to Smile This Summer

June is National Smile Month! Oral Health America and the International Dental Health Foundation have partnered to promote the message of good oral hygiene this summer. Visit <http://www.oralhealthamerica.org> for more information.

ADA and EPA Address Amalgam Waste

The American Dental Association (ADA) has signed an agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the National Association of Clean Water Agencies to promote the use of the ADA's best management practices for handling amalgam waste. According to a statement from the ADA, the Voluntary Dental Amalgam Discharge Reduction Program aims to reduce amalgam wastewater discharges by encouraging dental offices to use amalgam separators and chair-side traps to collect and recycle amalgam waste. The agreement was signed Dec. 29, 2008. Visit www.epa.gov/guide/dental.

OSAP Introduces Online Safety Mall

The Organization for Safety and Asepsis Procedures (OSAP) has just introduced the OSAP Dental Safety Mall, an easy way to access current information and compliance tools on safety and infection control. The Mall features products such as safety charts, CE programs, materials for educators, and patient educational materials. Visit www.safetymall.osap.org.

Sippel Says 'Thanks'

My sincere congratulations to Carol Oeder, CDA, COA, CDPMA, FADAA, LPN, as she begins her position as Certificant-at-Large. I can only hope that her time will be as memorable as mine.



I would like to thank all of you for your trust in allowing me to represent you on the DANB Board as Certificant-at-Large.

Being a member of this board has given me a new respect for the time and effort given by each individual to maintain DANB's integrity at every level. To know all that goes into preserving our credential has truly been an eye-opening experience.

I would like to encourage every CDA, COA, CDPMA and COMSA to seriously consider the Certificant-at-Large position as your opportunity to represent the assistant in establishing policies and setting goals for our professional future.

My time on the Board, the friends I've made, and the knowledge I've acquired have certainly been a bright star in my dental assisting career.

Thank you,
Patricia Sippel, CDA

CDA/GC Exam Pilot Pathway Study for Vocational-Technical Dental Assisting Students Launches in 2010

Many dental assisting students attending programs at vocational-technical schools will soon become eligible to participate in a pilot study that will allow them to take the DANB Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) exam, which meets state dental assisting requirements in 37 states and the District of Columbia.

DANB is pleased to announce that in January 2010, DANB will initiate a three-year pilot study of a new exam pathway. The pilot pathway study will allow dental assisting students who have graduated from DANB-accepted vocational-technical programs and have one year of work experience to be eligible to take DANB's CDA/GC exam. This three-year pilot study (1/1/2010 - 12/31/12) will be used by DANB to determine whether dental assistants testing under the new pilot pathway pass the GC component of the CDA exam at a rate equivalent to those testing under Pathways I and II.

The CDA/GC Exam Pilot Pathway study sets forth eligibility requirements for both dental assisting students and vocational-technical dental assisting programs. For students to be eligible to take the GC component or the full CDA exam as part of the pilot pathway study, their dental assisting program must:

- Be housed within an institution accredited by a U.S. Department of Education (USDoE)-recognized accrediting agency
- Be at least one academic year in length (25 semester or trimester hours, or 36 quarter hours, or 900 clock hours), and
- Present a comprehensive dental assisting curriculum.

If you are a Program Director at a vocational-technical dental assisting program, have not received a letter from DANB about the study, and think your program may be eligible to participate in the CDA/GC Exam Pilot Pathway study, call 1-800-FOR-DANB (X419) today!

DANB Board Approves New Director Nominations

DANB Board Directors James Watkins, DDS, nominated by the American Association of Dental Examiners (AADE); Brenda Fell, CDA, CDPMA, nominated by the American Dental Assistants Association (ADAA) for one of three dental assisting educators on DANB's Board; and Certificatant-at-Large Patricia Sippel, CDA, will end their second three-year terms at the 2009 August Board of Directors meeting. The DANB Board of Directors elected the following new Directors to the DANB Board:

- AADE Nominee - Dr. Bruce Barrette, DDS
- ADAA Educator Nominee - Carolyn Breen, CDA, RDA, RDH, EdD
- Certificatant-at-Large - Carol Oeder, CDA, COA, CDPMA, FADAA, LPN

For 12 years, Dr. Barrette has been involved in the dental examining community. In addition to the AADE, Dr. Barrette has been a member of the American Board of Dental Examiners, holding Board positions at the national and local chapters. He has represented AADE on the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) for the past four years, serving on the Dental Assisting Review Committee for three years.

Dr. Breen is currently a Professor of Allied Dental Education at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. She has more than 35 years of experience as a dental assisting educator, and received honors from multiple organizations, including the ADAA, the New Jersey Dental Assistants Association, the New Jersey Dental Association and the New Jersey Dental Hygienists Association.

Carol Oeder has been a member of the ADAA at the national, state and local levels since 1979, holding numerous board positions. See the Winter 2009 Certified Press for her complete professional biography. These newly-elected Directors will begin serving their first three-year terms at the conclusion of the August 2009 Board meeting.



Spears Answers Recertification Questions

Certified Press spoke with Assistant Director of Recertification Vickie Spears about the state of DANB Recertification. To submit comments on DANB's Recertification Requirements, go to www.danb.org.

Will you explain how DANB's Recertification Requirements treat "clinical" and "non-clinical" CDE hours differently?

DANB Certified Assistants may take as many of the 12 required CDE hours in the clinical category as they like, up to the full 12 hours required by DANB annually. "Clinical" means education related to subjects like chairside duties, infection control, radiology, and expanded functions. Many Certified Assistants take courses related to disease, patient care, and medical emergencies. CDAs, COAs, and COMSAs may only take three of the 12 required hours in "non-clinical" subjects. CDPMAs may take up to six hours of non-clinical CDE. Popular non-clinical topics are software/technology, Spanish, stress management, communication and team building.

Does the limit on non-clinical CDE hours draw questions from Certified Assistants?

Yes, some Certificants don't understand why they can't get all their hours in non-clinical areas, and why DANB accepts only a maximum of three CDE hours for community service. But remember, if you take more than three non-clinical CDE hours, you can carry over three hours to the next year.

Student Eligibility Requirements for CDA/GC Pilot Pathway Study

To take DANB's CDA or GC component exam under the pilot pathway, a voc-tech dental assisting student must meet the following criteria:

- High school graduation or equivalent
- Graduation or completion of a DANB-accepted vocational-technical dental assisting program
- Complete a minimum of 1 year of continuous full-time work experience (at least 1750 hours) as a dental assistant
- Hold DANB-accepted CPR certification

Testing under DANB's CDA/GC Exam Pilot Pathway study will begin in January, 2010. Students who graduate beginning in January 2009 are eligible to participate. This temporary pilot study will end December 31, 2012. All applications must be post-marked or received by 12/31/2012 to qualify to test under the pilot pathway

What is the process for CDE courses to become "DANB-approved?"

Since January, I have approved 200 CDE courses -- all that applied for approval met DANB criteria. Sponsors can download a booklet and application from DANB's Web site explaining the process. Basically, you just need to indicate whether your organization is non-profit or for-profit and submit a biography of the author/presenter and outline of the course -- just a few lines. It's a real breeze! We e-mail approval letters to the sponsors as soon as their courses are approved.

What's the most frequently asked question from Certified Assistants?

Most of the callers are asking where and how to get their 12 CDE hours. We tell them they can take a DANB PDEP module (see page 4), contact the American Dental Assistants Association (ADAA), or call the state dental association. More and more Certified Assistants are getting their CDE online!

What do you hope will be the results from the upcoming review of DANB's Recertification Requirements?

I would like a new format that makes reading and understanding the Recertification Requirements easier for DANB Certificants!

Renewing DANB Certification

DANB certification is valid for one year, and must therefore be renewed annually. In order to renew their certification, DANB Certificants are required to complete 12 hours of Continuing Dental Education, 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 their 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.

Number of Credentials	CDE Hours (including CPR)	Renewal Fee*
One (1)	12 Hours	\$55
Two (2)	18 Hours	\$80
Three (3)	24 Hours	\$100
Four (4)	30 Hours	\$125

*A late fee of \$10 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 (3) months of the expiration date, the Certificant is no longer certified and cannot use the CDA, COA, COMSA, or CDPMA acronym. To protect against misuse of DANB credentials, DANB sends reports of lapsed DANB Certificants to state regulatory agencies on a regular basis.

This sample timeline illustrates the DANB Certification renewal process. In this example, the individual's CDA certification expires Jan. 15, 2009.

December 1, 2008	A renewal notice is sent to Certificant.
January 15, 2009	Signed statement and fee are due by this date or DANB Certification expires.
January 16, 2009	Grace period begins. A \$10 late fee is assessed. If the fee is not received, a second notice is sent.
March 15, 2009	Grace period continues. If the fee is not received, the final notice is sent.
April 16, 2009	The grace period ends. If the fees and signed statement are not received, the individual is no longer DANB Certified. Call 1-800-FOR-DANB for reinstatement options.

Looking For A Convenient, Affordable Way To Earn 12 CDE Hours?

Order DANB's Professional Development Examination Program (PDEP) today!

PDEP

When you order PDEP, you will receive a packet of articles and a short exam with questions based on the reading.

You have six months after receiving the packet to submit your exam answers. PDEP meets Category 7 (DANB Exams) for CDE hours.

You can select to receive PDEP articles on the following topics for a \$65 fee for each PDEP packet: General Chairside Assisting (GC), Infection Control (ICE), Radiation Health and Safety (RHS) and Orthodontic Assisting (OA).

DANB's PDEP is available only to current or former DANB Certificants. If you pass PDEP and earn more CDE hours than required for your Certifications, you can roll over the extra CDE hours to meet DANB Recertification Requirements for up to two years. For more information, call Client Services at 1-800-FOR-DANB or visit <http://danb.org/recert/recertPDEP.asp>. You can download a PDEP order form at <http://danb.org/PDFs/PDEPRenewApp.pdf>

DANB Recertification Policy

- I. All continuing dental education (CDE) must directly relate to the practice of dentistry or dental assisting in order to maintain or improve dental assisting knowledge or skill. CDE does not need to be pre-approved by DANB in order to be accepted as meeting DANB Recertification Requirements. Call DANB prior to participation in education if you have questions about acceptance.
- II. 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 1/2 hours = 1.5 CDE credits; 2 3/4 hours = 2.75 CDE credits).
- III. Education dated prior to the initial certification date cannot be used to meet DANB CDE requirements. Certificants must earn the appropriate number of CDE hours during the first year of certification to maintain certification.
- IV. Education has a two-year lifespan. Certificants who carry over credits into the next renewal year must retain proof of 24 hours of CDE over a two-year period.
- V. Multiple Certifications: It is possible to be certified in each of four areas: CDA, COA, COMSA, and CDPMA. Renewal requirements are set at an approximately 50% increase over basic requirements for each additional credential maintained.
- VI. Renewal Timing and Expiration: A three-month grace period is granted if the required CDE hours are not accumulated and appropriate fee is not received by the expiration date. An individual is considered certified during this three-month 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 your expiration date, you are no longer certified and cannot use the CDA, COA, COMSA, or CDPMA acronym. Misuse of any DANB credential is grounds for discipline under DANB's discipline policies and procedures (contact DANB for a copy). For reinstatement of a credential, contact DANB by phone at 1-800-FOR-DANB, ext. 445 or by e-mail at vspears@danb.org.
- VII. Emeritus Status: DANB Certified Assistants may apply for Emeritus status if they have maintained continuous current Certification for four of the five years immediately preceding application and have: become totally and permanently disabled, or retired from the field of dentistry/dental assisting at age 60 years or older, or retired from the field of dentistry/dental assisting with 35 years of continuous (without any breaks) DANB Certification. Please visit DANB's Web site (at www.danb.org/recert/recertrecognition.asp) to view the complete DANB Policy on "Emeritus Status" or contact DANB at 1-800-FOR-DANB, extension 445. Once Emeritus status is earned, Certificants must use this designation; i.e., Sue Smith, CDA-Emeritus.

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(s) are a matter of public record and may be disclosed.

In addition, unless you choose not to allow it, from time to time, DANB will provide the names and addresses of certificants to dentists interested in hiring a DANB Certificant (CDA, COA, CDPMA, COMSA) or someone who has passed the Radiation Health and Safety or Infection Control examination from their area, and to providers of continuing education opportunities. DANB may also post current certificant status (certificant name, certification(s) earned, state in which certificant resides, and date of certification) on DANB's Web site.

If you do NOT wish to receive non-DANB mailings at your home address (i.e., current job opportunities, continuing education offerings, etc.), or you do NOT agree to allow DANB to publish your certification status (your name, certification(s) earned, state in which you reside, and date of your certification) on DANB's Web site, you must send a written request to have this information omitted from release or publication to: DANB, Attn: Director of Marketing and Communications, 444 N. Michigan Ave., Ste. 900, Chicago, IL, 60611.

Continuing Dental Education (CDE)

Requirements/Audit Procedures

The 12 CDE hour annual minimum is in line with states that have mandatory CDE requirements for dental assistants. The yearly CDE requirement emphasizes the importance of lifelong professional learning and ensures the continued competence of DANB Certified Assistants. So that DANB Certification continues to be known in the dental community as a *Mark of Dental Assisting Excellence™*, some DANB Certificants are randomly selected for verification (audit) of their CDE hours 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 reinstated 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. MATERIALS WILL NOT BE RETURNED OR RETAINED BY DANB.**

To renew DANB Certification, the Certificant must earn and retain proof of 12 hours of acceptable CDE by the expiration date on the DANB certificate.

Categories for CDE Hours

Recertification can be earned through accumulating the required number of CDE hours 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 hours, subject matter, program title, and program presenter.

1. Mandatory CPR Certification CDE Hours: Maximum 4 hours

Accepted Documentation: Copy of front and back of a current CPR card. 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.

NOTE: Two-(2) year CPR card holders can only apply the hours to recertification in the year CPR is earned. In the second year, CPR hours will not count and the Certificant must earn the full number of hours from other categories.

Current CPR certification is required for annual renewal of DANB certification. Effective 2/16/09, DANB accepts CPR certifications from the providers below (CPR must be part of the course), if the Certificant was given a clinical (hands-on) examination. CPR certification from other providers or courses will not be accepted. Call DANB if you are not sure if your provider is accepted.

- 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
- Medic First Aid
- National Safety Council (Green Cross)
- ProCPR (added Feb. 2009) - Not all courses include the hands-on exam.
- Saudi Heart Association

2. Clinical Courses, Seminars, Table Clinics & Exhibits CDE Hours: Hour for Hour (no maximum)

Exhibit Hours: Maximum 2 hours (1 hour 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

Clinical courses are on-site lectures, courses, seminars, and/or table clinics that are directly related to the clinical practice of dentistry or dental assisting, such as skills, knowledge, and duties that would be directly related to chairside: dental materials, four-handed dentistry, infection control, radiology, expanded functions, nonhuman dentistry (i.e., canine and feline dentistry) and others. See Category 3 for non-clinical practice management information.

For each hour that you attend and/or participate in one of these sessions you will receive one (1) CDE credit. Additionally, a maximum of one (1) hour 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 (2) different meetings. All CDE credits can be clinical in nature.

3. Non-Clinical Courses, Seminars & Table Clinics Formerly called Electives (including Practice Management) CDE Hours: Maximum 3 hours for CDAs, COAs, & COMSAs Maximum 6 hours for CDPMAs

Accepted Documentation: Certificate of completion, DANB approval code, letter of attendance/completion, meeting badge, program page (table clinics or free on-site lecture), CDE printout from meeting, or other like documentation

CDAs, COAs, and COMSAs may earn a maximum of three (3) CDE hours annually. CDPMAs can earn a maximum of six (6) CDE hours annually. This category includes attendance at or participation in courses 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. Home Study Courses: Text-Audio-Video-Internet

CDE Hours: Clinical Home Study Courses: Hour for Hour (no maximum)

**Non-Clinical Home Study Courses: Maximum 3 hours for CDAs, COAs & COMSAs
Maximum of 6 hours for CDPMAs**

Accepted Documentation: Certificate of completion, DANB approval code, letter of completion, or other like documentation

This category includes completion of any Internet-based text, audio or video courses completed at home. Home study courses can be obtained from the American Dental Assistants Association (ADAA), The National Association of Dental Assistants (NADA) and other agencies. All required CDA hours can be earned through home study courses. CDAs, COAs, and COMSAs may take a maximum of three (3) non-clinical CDE hours or a maximum of twelve (12) clinical CDE hours. CDPMAs may take a maximum of six non-clinical course hours or a maximum of 12 clinical CDE hours

5. Video Or Audio Tapes From Convention Seminars CDE Hours: Maximum 3 hours

Accepted Documentation: Copy of the 250-word essay, including the meeting and course name.

Certificants may earn a maximum of three (3) CDE hours 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.

6. Reading

CDE Hours: Maximum 2 hours

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.

Certificants may earn a maximum of one (1) CDE hour annually by reading at least six (6) technical/dental articles published within your renewal period or one (1) dental textbook, published within the past five (5) years. 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 (1) CDE hour. Certificants may earn an additional one (1) CDE hour annually for writing at least a 50-word summary of each article or at least a 250-word summary of the textbook, highlighting its relevance to the dental assisting profession.

Dental assisting educators teaching at least half-time may earn a maximum of three (3) CDE credit hours annually by reviewing new reference materials (textbooks, CD ROMs, audiovisuals, etc.) for possible adoption into their curriculum. **Accepted documentation:** Copy of the completed publisher's evaluation form for any materials evaluated for adoption.

7. DANB Exams

CDE Hours: Maximum 12 hours

Accepted Documentation: Copy of Certificate or Official DANB Score Report

Twelve (12) CDE hours 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 Examination Program (PDEP), or any DANB state or agency-contracted examination that consists of at least 100 items. Four (4) CDE hours 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 hour will be allowed for every 100 questions.

8. Community Participation

CDE Hours: Maximum 3 hours

Accepted Documentation: Certificate of completion, letter of attendance/participation, or similar documentation

Certificants may earn a maximum of two (2) CDE hours by participating in dental-related community service and an additional one (1) CDE hour 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 (2) hours. DANB will publicly recognize Certificants who complete and provide proof of mission work.

9. College Courses

CDE Hours: No Maximum

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

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

- Three (3) College Credits/Units = Twelve (12) CDE hours
- Two (2) College Credits/Units = Six (6) CDE hours
- One (1) College Credit/Unit = Three (3) CDE hours

Courses must directly relate to the practice of dentistry or dental assisting (i.e., dentistry, dental assisting, dental hygiene, anatomy/physiology, all biology, all chemistry, nutrition). To avoid non-acceptance of credits, call DANB to ascertain whether a course is acceptable and at what CDE hour level.

10. Scholarly Activity

CDE Hours: Maximum 3 hours

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 (see below)

Certificants may earn a maximum of three (3) CDE hours annually for each of the following scholarly activities:

- Teach a professional course directly related to dentistry or dental assisting or present a continuing dental education program, either of which are outside of the Certificant's normal employment teaching responsibilities. (Accepted documentation: course outline/catalog, copy of program brochure listing the Certificant as Instructor)
- Author a published article in a recognized dental or dental assisting journal. (Accepted documentation: copy of published article, including name and date of publication)
- Participate in a DANB Exam Committee/validity study/PDEP development (PDEP development participants cannot use PDEP to renew) or receive one (1) CDE hour for every two (2) exam items accepted by DANB. (Accepted documentation: letter from DANB)
- Certificants may earn all twelve (12) CDE hours required annually by DANB if they are currently enrolled in a college program to earn an advanced degree, but this option can be used for no more than five consecutive years. Twelve (12) CDE hours per year may be earned if enrolled at least half-time (earning 3 or more college credits/units) in a BA, BS, MA, or other recognized degree program. (Accepted documentation: Document from college registrar's office indicating currently enrolled status.)

Industry Updates

Pilot Workforce Program Takes Flight

Proposed by the American Dental Association (ADA) more than three years ago to address the oral healthcare needs of underserved communities, the Community Dental Health Coordinator (CDHC) pilot workforce program is starting to soar. In 2008, the ADA House of Delegates passed a resolution to commit funding for the five-year CDHC pilot program. And this year, on March 6, training began for 18 CDHC participants at two sites -- the University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry and the University of California-Los Angeles (UCLA) School of Dentistry/Salish Kootenai College in Montana.

This was the first in-person meeting for the CDHC participants, notes Donna Kotyk, CDA, RDH, MA. As director of the dental assisting program at Salish Kootenai, Kotyk has been involved with the pilot program since its inception and says everyone involved is very excited. "This type of program has not been done before, so we're all in this together," Kotyk says. "We are all extremely flexible so that we can deal with unforeseen situations that may arise. And we are always keeping the mission and objectives in the forefront of our minds. I don't want to say that we are pioneers, but we are all working toward this new vision together."

UCLA/Salish Kootenai College is the Native American site for the program, and six of the CDHC trainees are working in Indian Health Service (IHS) facilities. The students are from the Hopi Reservation in Arizona; the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin; and the Cass Lake and the White Earth Reservation in Minnesota.



CDHC training involves 12 months of online education through Rio Salado College in Tempe, Ariz., followed by a six-month internship with hands-on clinical training at the IHS facilities. The clinical portion of the training began in May, and will include six or seven in-person sessions.

Dr. Nancy Reifel, D.D.S., M.P.H., director of the program at UCLA/Salish Kootenai College, has been in touch with the IHS site directors and says the students are working diligently and doing a terrific job. Dr. Reifel notes that Indian dental programs, in particular, have a shortage of dentists and only about 25 percent of people in the community have access to dental care.

Photo credit: Terry D. Stover/University of Oklahoma

DANB Board Director Donna Kotyk, CDA, RDH, M.A. (left) is Director of the Dental Assisting Technology Program at Salish Kootenai College. Nancy Reifel, D.D.S., M.P.H. is an Assistant Researcher at the UCLA School of Dentistry and teaches in the American Indian Studies Program at UCLA.

ADA's Evidence-Based Dentistry Site

Earlier this year, the American Dental Association (ADA) launched its evidence-based dentistry (EBD) site. EBD is the practice of dentistry that integrates research and dental practice in order to make clinical decisions. Visit <http://ebd.ada.org>.

ADEA Names New President

The American Dental Education Association (ADEA) installed Ronald J. Hunt, D.D.S., M.S., as president on March 18 at the 2009 ADEA Annual Session in Phoenix. Dr. Hunt has served on numerous ADEA committees and other dental organizations. Currently, Dr. Hunt is the dean of the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Dentistry, a position he has held for the past nine years.

ADA Appoints Executive Director

The American Dental Association (ADA) Board of Trustees has named Kathleen O'Loughlin, D.M.D., M.P.H., of Massachusetts, as its executive director and chief operating officer, effective June 1. Dr. O'Loughlin brings a wealth of experience, including 20 years in private general dental practice and public health dentistry, 10 years experience as a dental educator, and a decade of expertise in senior management and strategic planning.

DANB Online Education (cont'd)

the organization/agency-sponsored education is not a prerequisite to obtain the credential, and that other methods of preparation are available, certifying organizations may offer education. (NCCA FAQs, NOCA website)

To avoid any real or perceived conflicts of interest, it is important to note that e-learning modules are developed completely outside of DANB's Testing and Measurement department. DANB staff members and Subject Matter Experts associated with e-learning course development will have no direct contact with DANB exam content, exam committees or the Board of Directors during course development.

"E-learning is a new and exciting growth area for DANB, one that will meet the needs of many of DANB's stakeholders," notes Cindy Durley, DANB's Executive Director. "DANB online education can be accessed by anyone, not only DANB Certificants or members of a particular organization or association. DANB staff members are excited to implement this new service and will work to do so with the excellence associated with the DANB brand."

Convention Corner



The DANB booth has been busier than ever, with record numbers of DANB Certified Assistants and candidates stopping by to pick up information and fun, free gifts! DANB Director of Marketing and Communications Mary GiaQuinta (pictured center) explains the benefits of DANB Certification to attendees at the Hinman Dental Meeting in Atlanta.

Photo credit: Lois Bell, CDA

Visit DANB at these upcoming conventions!

Professional Dental Assisting Conference
June 11-14, 2009
Plano, Texas
www.osap.org

Pacific Northwest Dental Conference
July 23-24, 2009
Seattle, Washington
www.wsda.org

Academy of General Dentistry
July 8-12, 2009
Baltimore, Maryland
www.agd.org/baltimore09

National Conference of State Legislatures
July 21-23, 2009
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
www.ncsl.org

Ohio Dental Association Annual Session
August 27-30, 2009
Columbus, Ohio
www.oda.org

Spotlight on Excellence

Torres Continues to Touch Lives

The momentum of the Hazel O. Torres Memorial Award rolls on – continuing to spread recognition of dental assisting excellence. When Virginia “Ginny” Jorgensen, CDA, EFDA, EFODA, AAS, was selected as the winner of the Hazel O. Torres Memorial Award, she could barely believe it. “I had to pinch myself,” she says. “It’s just such an honor. I want very much to keep Hazel’s name alive and her motto of ‘striving for the betterment of dental assisting’ going.”

And Jorgensen has done just that. With the help of Director Josette Beach, Jorgensen established a scholarship in Torres’ name through Portland Community College’s (PCC) Foundation Fund.

The \$500 scholarship went to PCC dental assisting student Nicole Maditz. “She is a wonderfully energetic, bright student who I’m sure will go far in the field of dental assisting,” Jorgensen says, adding that Maditz stood out “in her compassion for the dental patient and commitment to excelling in her chosen career.”

The announcement that Maditz had won came during Dental Assistants Recognition Week. “I was shocked,” Maditz says. “I wasn’t expecting to win, but I was confident in my essay. The essay was very easy for me to write because of my passion

for the dental field and the dental assisting profession. I am so proud to be in a profession that has so many amazing people. Being a student, I get to visit different offices and I have met the most incredible people who inspire me on a daily basis to work harder and hold myself to high expectations.”

The PCC Dental Assisting Program Advisory Committee reviewed the scholarship candidates, and Jorgensen says all the applicants were impressive. So impressive, in fact, that committee member Erin Peerboom donated \$250 to establish a scholarship for the second place student, Kandra Luna.

The PCC Foundation Fund held its annual recognition dinner on April 30, which Maditz and Luna attended. “They’re both special girls and I know they’ll be successful in whatever they do,” Jorgensen says, adding that “Hazel would be proud.”



Nicole Maditz (right) and Kandra Luna (left) pose during an event at the Oregon Health & Science University School of Dentistry.

Hazel O. Torres, CDA, RDAEF, M.A., was an educator, a pioneer in the field of dental assisting, and one of the original authors of the “Modern Dental Assisting” textbook. When Ms. Torres passed away on March 29, 2008, she granted \$2,000 to DANB, which was used to fund the Hazel O. Torres Memorial Award.

Dental Assistants Recognition Week Celebrated in Washington

Cascade Job Corps Center in Sedro Woolley, Wash., celebrated Dental Assistants Recognition Week with its students through a T-shirt design contest. Dental assisting instructor Darlene Hunziker, CDA, CDPMA, CTT, says the goal of the contest was to design a T-shirt that best represents the DARW theme, “One Team, One Goal, Improving Oral Health.”

Hunziker says the first place prize went to Joseph Mason, while second place was awarded to Casey Chambers and Aleks Baranets.

The DARW celebrations continued with a trip to the Seattle Pacific Science Center to view the Lucy exhibit, the oldest and most complete fossil of a human ancestor. The students even observed that Lucy had 32 teeth.

“We capped off the week with a game show at the awards assembly with the students asking questions relating to good oral health, and the contestants won movie passes if they answered the questions correct,” Hunziker notes. “All in all, we had a great DARW this year and are starting to plan how to celebrate next year.”



DANB Collaborates with Air Force Dental Service to Administer Exams



Airman Basic Nicolas Money, Airman Lindsey Scritchfield, Chief Master Sergeant Thomas Davis (Air Force Dental Service Career Field Manager), and Airman First Class John Rodgers after learning the airmen earned passing scores on DANB’s Infection Control Exam.

DANB and the Air Force Dental Service (AFDS) are underway with their collaboration on the administration of DANB’s Infection Control (ICE) exam. DANB’s contract with the AFDS went into effect at the end last year, and more than 100 candidates in the Air Force dental technical training program have since taken the exam. The exam is administered once a month at Sheppard Air Force base in Texas.

By delivering DANB exams within the AFDS dental technician curriculum, the Air Force gains an independent verification of military personnel’s proficiency and provides its dental technicians with the opportunity to earn national DANB Certificates of Competency. Earning a Certificate of Competency in Infection Control and working toward DANB Certification helps military personnel meet civilian dental assisting standards and plan ahead for a smooth transition from military life to a rewarding civilian career.

Effective October 1, 2009, DANB will also begin to administer the Radiation Health and Safety (RHS) exam to AFDS students.



Dental Assisting National Board, Inc.
444 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 900
Chicago, Illinois 60611-3985

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DANB Details

Reach DANB at:

444 N. Michigan Ave., Ste. 900
Chicago, IL 60611
1-800-FOR-DANB or 312-642-3368
Fax: 312-642-1475

Recertification/Audit/CDE.....x445
vspears@danb.org

Marketing/Communications.....x415
mgiaquinta@danb.org

Exam Application/Document Review.....x425
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You Could Be Next!

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.

173883	091560
186950	200908
042557	030948

You Could be Next Winners!

Congratulations to Denise Conquest, CDA, from Florida, and Heidi Hiller, CDA, from Utah, who were the "You Could Be Next" winners in the Spring *Certified Press*!

We Want to Hear from You!

Tell DANB about your favorite dental assisting moments from the summer. We'll publish some of the best responses in the next issue of *Certified Press*. Submit your stories to haronovich@danb.org.

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The DANB 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 and credentials. 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.