



Certified Press

Dental Assisting National Board, Inc.

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CELEBRATE

DENTAL ASSISTING EXCELLENCE



Dental Assistants Recognition Week
March 1-7, 2020

WORD FROM THE CHAIR



Michael Conte, D.M.D., M.P.H.
DANB Board Chair

Happy Dental Assistants Recognition Week (DARW)!

March kicks off with DARW, and this year's theme is "A 20/20 Dental Assistant — Looking Toward the Future." In this spirit, on page 3, DANB certificants share their thoughts about the importance of DARW and the dental assisting profession.

On page 7, learn more about the collaboration between the Organization for Safety, Asepsis and Prevention (OSAP); DANB; and the DALE Foundation, which includes offering an educational certificate program and two professional certifications. Several DANB certificants have already started the OSAP-DALE Foundation Dental Infection Prevention and Control Certificate Program™ and are looking forward to completing the next steps.

Also this issue, we feature two notable DANB certificants: Karen Wilber, CDA, who received the 2019 Outstanding Dental Assistant award from the Vermont Dental Assistants Association, and Rebecca Trimarchi, CDA, who traveled in October to the jungle of the Peruvian Amazon as part of a dental mission trip with the organization Healing the Children Northeast.

And on page 6, read about the four recipients of the 2019 ADA/DANB scholarship, awarded annually to dental assistants who demonstrate a strong commitment to career growth and lifelong learning in the dental assisting profession.

Congratulations to the scholarship recipients, Ms. Wilber and Ms. Trimarchi, and to all assistants who strive to expand their knowledge and careers. Your efforts are worth celebrating, this DARW and always.

Sincerely,

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Dental assistant program director Calista L. Slomski, CDA, and her students at Great Lakes Institute of Technology celebrated DARW last year with several activities. Want to share your DARW celebration stories or photos with us? Send your contribution to communications@danb.org.

Congratulations to Emeritus Certificants

Nov. 1, 2019 – Jan. 31, 2020

Name/State	Years certified	Name/State	Years certified
Jacoba C. Arnstein, CDA-Emeritus, COA-Emeritus Goldens Bridge, NY	CDA 15; COA 11	Michell Walter McGill, CDA-Emeritus, Dallas, GA	10
Noreen Bishoff, CDA-Emeritus, CPFDA-Emeritus, Sterling Heights, MI	CDA 47; CPFDA 7	Sharon K. McKay, CDA-Emeritus, Beaverton, OR	40
Jennifer D. Blake, CDA-Emeritus, Brownsburg, IN	40	Trisha Ann Montgomery, CDA-Emeritus, Oklahoma, OK	16
Patricia Leader Boyd, CDA-Emeritus, Charlestown, IN	14	Sandra A. Morales, CDA-Emeritus, San Antonio, TX	37
Kathy. J. Brown, CDA-Emeritus, Nottingham, PA	19	Darlene D. Mundt, CDA-Emeritus, Lincoln, NE	47
Donna J. Coleman, CDA-Emeritus, St. Louis, MO	28	Dianne M. Munson, CDA-Emeritus, CDPMA-Emeritus, Punta Gorda, FL	CDA 37; CDPMA 29
Traci L. Cooper, CDA-Emeritus, Jackson, MI	22	Angel A. Norman, CDPMA-Emeritus, Knoxville, TN	30
Janet S. Cooper Bouchard, CDA-Emeritus, Petaluma, CA	22	Donna Patterson, CDA-Emeritus, CDPMA-Emeritus, King, NC	CDA 29; CDPMA 29
Susan J. DeLiddo, CDA-Emeritus, Princeton, MA	45	Nancy J. Peep, CDA-Emeritus, Spearfish, SD	33
Eileen A. Derr, CDA-Emeritus, King City, OR	12	Rosemary Pintye, CDPMA-Emeritus, Boynton Beach, FL	32
Terri E. DeWitt-Soverdike, CDA-Emeritus, Loogootee, IN	23	Pamela R. Pump, CDA-Emeritus, Tiffin, IA	44
Diane R. Duddy, CDA-Emeritus, Wellesley, MA	45	Elaine L. Rogers, CDA-Emeritus, Ronda, NC	29
Rebecca K. Ellerbusch, CDA-Emeritus, Fort Wayne, IN	23	Jane Ryan, CDA-Emeritus, CDPMA-Emeritus, Altoona, IA	CDA 43; CDPMA 18
Tina A. Grile, CDA-Emeritus, Athens, GA	18	Debbie L. Sampsell, CDA-Emeritus, Sarasota, FL	28
Christine J. Hansen Cook, CDA-Emeritus, Juneau, AK	23	Camille A. Schmidt, CDA-Emeritus, Central Islip, NY	23
Maria A. Hessman, CDA-Emeritus, New Windsor, MD	27	Donna Malone Shear, CDA-Emeritus, Lake Worth, FL	45
Lucinda J. Hesuse, CDA-Emeritus, Farmington, NM	9	Carole M. Siipola, CDA-Emeritus, Milford, MA	35
Linda F. Jelinek, CDA-Emeritus, Edgewater, MD	28	Catherine A. Sommerfeld, CDA-Emeritus, Seattle, WA	37
Laura A. Johnson, CDA-Emeritus, Dacula, GA	23	Cynthia D. Stahl, CDA-Emeritus, Port Clinton, OH	19
Donna D. Jones, CDA-Emeritus, Pendleton, OR	42	Arlene Suchodolski, CDA-Emeritus, Pawtucket, RI	41
Cora Lee Kelley, CDA-Emeritus, Evansville, IN	62	Jacinta Tavares-Trotter, CDA-Emeritus, Fort Washington, MD	13
Doreen N. Kelly, CDA-Emeritus, Port Republic, NJ	26	Donna Yvonne Tigg-Tatum, CDA-Emeritus, West Seneca, NY	45
Cheryl D. Lathrop, CDA-Emeritus, Marietta, OH	34	Patricia E. Wilson, CDA-Emeritus, Bridgeton, MO	20
Patricia Latimer, CDA-Emeritus, St. Petersburg, FL	41	Jannette T. Whisenhunt, CDA-Emeritus, Winston Salem, NC	32
Debra A. LaVerde, CDA-Emeritus, Andover, MA	43	Donna M. Wolcott, CDA-Emeritus, Cranston, RI	41
Connie Lieske, CDA-Emeritus, Port Clinton, OH	35	Jane M. Young, CDA-Emeritus, Roseville, MN	43
Marla D. Lynch, CDA-Emeritus, Rapid City, SD	12	Patricia A. Zakar, CDA-Emeritus, Beachwood, NJ	38
Marlene J. Makevich, CDA-Emeritus, Tyngsboro, MA	46		
Julie McDonald, CDA-Emeritus, Royal Oak, MI	39		

For more information on Emeritus status, see page 4.

SPOTLIGHT ON EXCELLENCE

Rebecca Trimarchi helps children around the world

Longtime dental assistant Rebecca Trimarchi, CDA, of Brewster, New York, has a passion for helping patients not only locally, but also around the world.

Recently, she traveled to the jungle of the Peruvian Amazon as part of a dental mission trip with Healing the Children Northeast, a volunteer organization dedicated to providing donated medical and dental care to children in need in the United States and around the world.

While this October 2019 trip was Trimarchi's third mission to the Amazon jungle with the organization, she's been traveling the globe on dental mission trips with Healing the Children Northeast for approximately 13 years.

It all started around 2006, when Trimarchi began working for her current employer, Robert Arbuckle, D.D.S., at Wilton Dental Care. She was encouraged then by the dentist to join him on the trips. As a dental assistant who considers herself to have a knack for organization and helping people, Trimarchi was immediately hooked on the idea of volunteering in this capacity.

"When I started with this office in 2006, the doctor was leaving for Cambodia," she recalls. "I was unable to go on that trip, but I joined the next trip the following year to Madagascar — that was my first time ever on a dental mission, and out of the country, halfway around the world."

Growing up in central Maine, before becoming a global dental volunteer, Trimarchi didn't consider herself to be a world traveler. "I had been to Canada before, but didn't consider that another coun-



Rebecca Trimarchi, CDA (center), is pictured with Healing the Children Northeast mission trip team members.

try because I grew up so close to it," she says with a laugh. Now, Trimarchi can say her dental work has taken her around the world to numerous locations, such as Morocco, Guatemala, Brazil, Belize and Cape Verde.

Trimarchi says a Healing the Children trip typically draws a core group of approximately 10 to 12 dental professionals, including dentists (team leader Gregory Keiser, D.M.D., among them), assistants, hygienists and photographers, as well as translators. In addition to assisting the doctors on location, Trimarchi's key role on the team is procuring and preparing supplies to bring on the missions.

"Every year, I work tirelessly trying to get donations for supplies and equipment," she explains. "I pack most of the bags and get everything all set, making sure we have everything we need to go on the trip. Every last little thing is packed and taken with you to these locations — from portable

dental units to cotton rolls, as supplies would be very hard to procure in most locations."

Trips typically last 10 days, door-to-door; during that time, "we are helping impoverished people, sometimes in remote areas," Trimarchi continues. "We have worked in churches, school gymnasiums and outdoor pop-up clinics, seeing patients." During this most recent trip, the volunteer team worked in the newly renovated Esperanza Medical Clinic, accessible only by boat.

The number of patients treated — with cleanings, fillings and extractions — typically depends on the location and its population size, Trimarchi notes. For example, in Morocco, in conjunction with other dental professionals, the team helped to treat almost 1,000 children in four days. "But the Peruvian jungle is very, very remote, only accessible by boat," she says, so comparatively, the reach there is smaller. "This year, we treated just under 300 patients, but in the past, we've treated about 350 to 400. That's a lot of people for a remote location."

When the team makes repeat visits to certain locations, they're typically pleased to find returning patients with improved oral health. "We've seen the impact we've made," Trimarchi says.

Next up for Trimarchi and the team? Traveling to Ecuador, a new location, in October 2020.

"I'm really hooked on these experiences," says Trimarchi. "They're something I very much cherish and look forward to every year."

To learn more about Healing the Children Northeast, visit htcne.org.

Looking toward Dental Assistants Recognition Week

This year, Dental Assistants Recognition Week (DARW) is March 1-7, with the theme of "A 20/20 Dental Assistant — Looking Toward the Future." In honor of DARW, three DANB certificants share why they are looking forward to celebrating DARW and its importance.

Why do you look forward to DARW?

Laura Ruscio, CDA, CPFDA, CRFDA: Because DARW reminds me that I am part of a wonderful community of professionals. Isn't it fabulous to see a whole week dedicated to dental assistants? We play such a diversified and integral role in the dental practice, and it is such a great feeling to see the profession, and the individuals who make up our profession, be recognized.

Carol Holley, CDA: DARW is a great way for the whole dental team to show appreciation for all the hard-working dental assistants in the dental practice.

Calista L. Slomski, CDA, EFDA: As dental assistant program director at Great Lakes Institute of Technology in Pennsylvania, I look forward to DARW because it gives students a chance to shine. We put on a schoolwide event each year called Dental Table Clinics. Students team up and give a three-minute presentation on a dental topic that features an interactive three-fold poster board, along with a brochure they hand out to their audience. This March will be our fourth annual Dental Table Clinics event. All programs

Continues on p. 6

Karen Wilber recognized with award

Karen Wilber, CDA, of Whitingham, Vermont, felt emotional and shocked when she heard her name called as an award winner during the 2019 Vermont State Dental Society Annual Meeting.

"They announced 'Karen Wilber' as the recipient of the Vermont Dental Assistant Association's (VDAA's) Outstanding Dental Assistant of the Year award," she says, "and I was looking around, thinking, 'There's got to be another Karen Wilber!' But, no, it was me!"

Wilber was nominated for the award by her dentist employers, Robert Ruhl, D.M.D., and Louis Beaudette, D.M.D., with whom she has worked for the majority of her almost-20-year career. After Wilber's name was announced, Drs. Ruhl and Beaudette read their nomination letters onstage, and her family walked into the room as well.

"The practice manager had communicated to my family about the award," Wilber recalls. "I was so honored. After almost 18 years of doing what I'm so passionate about, to have such recognition — it was amazing. It makes me feel emotional just talking about it."

Before finding dental assisting as a career path, Wilber worked in the hospitality industry and realized she wanted to start pursuing other career goals. Around the time of her high

school graduation, she considered becoming a cosmetologist, but ultimately decided that dental assisting was the field that most piqued her interest. After graduating from McCann Technical School's Dental Assisting program in 2002, Wilber began working as a dental assistant; about 10 years into her career, she decided the time was right to pursue DANB certification.

Wilber remembers: "I worked hard, juggling parenting and home life with working full-time, and challenged all three components of the DANB CDA exam at once. It was a lot to study, but I did, and I passed! I was so proud."

Aside from holding DANB certification, Wilber is a longtime member of the American Dental Assistants Association and the VDAA. She's also currently serving as the VDAA's president-elect, and this September will begin her tenure as chapter president.

Wilber recommends all assistants become involved with local and national dental assisting organizations. "There are so many reasons to be involved," she says. "I feel it keeps you informed about what's new and what's changed in our profession, and what to keep up with. Also, you're more valued and well-respected when you take your career seriously. When you're involved and passionate, it's obvious to your peers, employers and co-workers."



Karen Wilber, CDA

CERTIFICATION MATTERS

DANB's 2020 Recertification Requirements (pages 4-5)

Renewing DANB Certification

DANB certification must be renewed annually. To renew, certificants must complete at least 12 Continuing Dental Education (CDE) credits (**including 2 credits in infection control and one credit on OSHA's Bloodborne Pathogens Standard**); maintain DANB-accepted, hands-on CPR, BLS or ACLS; answer Background Information Questions; and submit the nonrefundable renewal fee to DANB. If you hold DANB's NELDA certification, please visit www.danb.org to download the *NELDA Recertification Requirements* packet. Certificants may renew online at www.danb.org or return the renewal statement to DANB.

Certifications	CDE Credits	Annual Fee*
1	12 (plus CPR)	\$75
2	18 (plus CPR)	\$90
3	24 (plus CPR)	\$110
4	30 (plus CPR)	\$130
5	36 (plus CPR)	\$150
6	42 (plus CPR)	\$170

*There is a \$20 late fee for certifications renewed during the three-month grace period after the certification expiration date.

Requirements/Audit Procedures

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

DANB certificants are randomly selected for audit of their CDE credits and CPR. If selected for audit, the certificant will receive notice requesting proof of CDE credits earned and of maintaining DANB-accepted, hands-on CPR/BLS/ACLS. Proof must be submitted to DANB within 30 days of audit notification.

Upon successful completion of the audit, certification will be reinstated for the full year.

DO NOT SEND DOCUMENTATION UNLESS REQUESTED. DANB WILL NOT RETURN OR RETAIN MATERIALS.

Certification Renewal Timeline

Before certification expiration date

Mail: A renewal notice is mailed seven weeks prior to certification expiration.

Email: Renewal notices are emailed eight weeks, four weeks and one week before certification expiration.

Certification expiration date

Renewal Statement and fee due by this date.

Grace period

DANB certificants have a three-month grace period from the certification expiration date to complete the renewal process including earning CDE credits. A late fee is assessed during this period. Certification is valid during this period.

Mail: Past-due renewal notices are mailed two and six weeks after certification expiration.

Email: Past-due renewal notices are emailed 10 weeks, five weeks and one week before grace period ends.

Three months after certification expiration

If the statement and renewal fee are not received, the individual is no longer DANB certified. Call 1-800-367-3262 or email recertification@danb.org for reinstatement options.

Recertification Policy

CDE credits must directly relate to the practice of dentistry or dental assisting to maintain or improve dental assisting knowledge or skill. CDE does not need to be pre-approved. Call DANB if you have questions.

Length of Program

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

CDE Obtained Prior to Earning Certification

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

CDE Lifespan

CDE credits have a two-year lifespan. Certificants should retain proof of 24 credits of CDE over a two-year period, in case they are selected for audit.

Use of DANB Certification Marks

DANB's marks are registered with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, and only those individuals who have earned and maintained certification are legally authorized to use them. To protect against misuse of DANB credentials, DANB sends reports of lapsed DANB certifications to state regulatory agencies on a regular basis.

DANB certificants may use a DANB certification mark after their names on a resume, business card, website, in a book or publication, and in other print and electronic media. A certificant may also display the mark on a nametag or uniform worn during the rendering or promoting of dental assisting services, and on a wall plaque present at the place where he/she renders or promotes the services. Individuals may not incorporate a DANB mark into their email addresses. If a certificant earned DANB certification in the past but has not maintained certification,

he/she may not use the DANB mark. Misuse of any DANB certification mark is grounds for discipline under *DANB's Disciplinary Policy & Procedures* (www.danb.org).

CPR, BLS or ACLS Requirement

Certificants must maintain DANB-accepted, hands-on CPR, BLS or ACLS for annual renewal of DANB certification (but does not count toward the required number of CDE credits). DANB accepts CPR, BLS and ACLS from the providers below. Course must provide training for CPR, and a hands-on exam must be taken. CPR, BLS or ACLS from other providers or courses will not be accepted.

DANB-Accepted, Hands-on CPR, BLS and ACLS Providers

American Environmental Health and Safety
American Heart Association
American Red Cross (card or certificate accepted)
American Safety and Health Institute
Canadian Red Cross
Emergency Care and Safety Institute
Emergency First Response
Emergency Medical Training Associates
Emergency University*
EMS Safety Services
Medic First Aid
Military Training Network
National Safety Council (Green Cross)
Pacific Medical Training (BLS only; apply at <https://911coned.com>)
ProCPR*
Saudi Heart Association

**Not all courses include the hands-on exam, so check with the provider before taking the course to be sure it will be accepted by DANB.*

Emeritus Status

DANB certificants (CDA, COA, CPFDA, CRFDA, COMSA and CDPMA) may apply for and earn "Emeritus" status if they have maintained continuous certification for four of the five years immediately preceding application for at least one certification and are:

- Totally and permanently disabled or
- Retired from the field of dentistry/dental assisting at the age of 60 years or older or
- Retired from the field of dentistry/dental assisting with 35 years of continuous (without any breaks) DANB certification.

Retirement

The certificant must submit:

- A completed Emeritus application
- A dated letter from the certificant's employer on letterhead and signed by the employer (or proof of receiving Social Security benefits).

Disability

The certificant must submit:

- A completed Emeritus application
- A dated letter from the certificant's physician on his/her office letterhead stating that the certificant is physically and permanently unable to perform any duties required (or proof of receiving Social Security disability benefits).

Reinstatement option

If your certification has lapsed within the past 12 months and you're still thinking about renewing, there's still time! DANB provides several options for reinstatement that do not include retaking the exams. If you or someone you know wants to learn more, contact DANB at danbmail@danb.org or 1-800-367-3262.

CONTINUING DENTAL EDUCATION (CDE)

Maximum Annual CDE Credits by Category and Certification

CDE Category	NELDA	CDA	COA	CPFDA	CRFDA	COMSA	CDPMA
Clinical Practice	6	12	12	12	12	12	5
Dental Office Management	N/A	3	3	3	3	3	6
DANB and Other Dental-Related Exams	N/A	12	12	12	12	12	6
Volunteer Service or Scholarly Activity	N/A	3	3	3	3	3	3

Categories for CDE Credits

Infection Control Requirement Clarification

As of Jan. 1, 2018, DANB certificants must earn at least one CDE credit in OSHA's Bloodborne Pathogens standard. The federally mandated OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens standard training may be used to meet this DANB renewal requirement.

CDE CATEGORY 1: CLINICAL PRACTICE

Starting Jan. 1, 2018, all certificants, whether they hold one or more DANB certifications, must annually earn a minimum of three (3) Continuing Dental Education (CDE) credits that meet the following requirements:

- One CDE credit on OSHA's Bloodborne Pathogens standard (for example, certificants may use proof of meeting the federally mandated OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens standard training), and
- Two CDE credits on infection prevention, control or safety (for example, courses may include any topics listed in DANB's Infection Control exam blueprint, which includes but are not limited to information in the OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens standard.

All other credits must directly relate to the clinical practice of dentistry, including dental materials, four-handed dentistry, infection control, radiology, expanded functions, behavior management, communication, and canine and feline dentistry.

Earn credits: Attend lectures, seminars and table clinics; successfully complete study and college courses; serve on an in-person DANB exam or DALE Foundation course development committee meeting; author/edit articles/textbooks

Calculate Credits:

- Each hour of a lecture, seminar, table clinic, or study course = One credit
Proof: Certificate/letter of attendance/completion on sponsor letterhead with organization contact info, your name, course title and date, and hours
- Each college credit/unit = Four credits
Proof: Transcript/official letter on letterhead with your name, course title and date, and credits/units.
- Each DANB or DALE Foundation meeting = Three credits
Proof: Letter on organization letterhead verifying participation
- Each authored or edited article or text book = Two credits
Proof: Completed publisher's evaluation with title, your name, publisher and publication date.

CDE CATEGORY 2: DENTAL OFFICE MANAGEMENT

Must directly relate to dental office management and practice communication, including dental practice acts, practice, time, risk and stress management, HIPAA, patient and staff motivation, computer courses, insurance, claims/billing, foreign language studies, American Sign Language, human resources, marketing and communication.

Earn credits: Attend lectures, seminars and table clinics; successfully complete study and college courses; serve on an in-person DANB exam or DALE Foundation course development committee meeting; author/edit articles/textbooks

Steps to renew DANB certification



1. Earn CDE credits*



2. Maintain a current DANB-accepted, hands-on CPR, BLS or ACLS certificate



3. Submit the renewal statement and fee

Calculate Credits:

- Each hour of a lecture, seminar, table clinic, or study course = One credit
Proof: Certificate of completion, letter of attendance/completion on sponsor letterhead with organization contact info, your name, course title and date, and hours.
- Each college credit/unit = Four credits
Proof: Transcript/official letter on letterhead with your name, course title and date, and credits/units.
- Each DANB or DALE Foundation meeting = Three credits
Proof: Letter on organization letterhead verifying participation
- Each authored or edited article or text book = Two credits
Proof: Copy of completed publisher's evaluation form, including title, author's name, publisher and publication date.

CDE CATEGORY 3: DENTAL-RELATED EXAMS

Earn credits: Pass a DANB-administered exam, excluding initial certification exams, DANB Professional Development Exam Program (PDEP) module or non-DANB administered, dental-related, professionally proctored exam with at least 100 questions

Calculate Credits:

- DANB-administered exam with < 100 questions = 6 credits; 100 or more questions = 12 credits; PDEP module = 12 credits
Proof: Official results
- Timed non-DANB administered exam = Hour-for-hour credit; un-timed = One credit/100 questions
Proof: Official exam results with date taken and exam description from exam organizer

CDE CATEGORY 4: VOLUNTEER SERVICE

Must directly relate to dental-related volunteer service. Up to three CDE credits may be used each year.

Earn credits: Mission and voluntary clinic work and dental presentations. Does not include activities such as serving as an officer, chair or member of a dental organization or advisory committee.

Calculate Credits:

- Each clock hour of service = One credit
Proof: Certificate or letter of attendance/participation on sponsor letterhead with organization contact info, your name, and hours and date of service

Winners named for the 2019 ADA/DANB Scholarship

The American Dental Assistants Association (ADAA) and DANB have selected the winners of the 2019 ADA/DANB Scholarship, which was founded to help dental assistants turn their professional development plans into reality.

The ADA/DANB Scholarship is open to all ADAA members in good standing. It is awarded annually to dental assistants who demonstrate a strong commitment to career growth and life-long learning in the dental assisting profession. This year, out of 36 applicants, the ADA/DANB Scholarship Committee selected four winners:

- Staci Schory, CDA
- Agata White
- Tracie Wright, CDA
- Mayuly Xayyaveth, CDA

Ms. Schory, of Auburn, Indiana, works as a dental assisting educator. She plans to use her scholarship funds to offset the cost of attending the Organization for Safety, Asepsis and Prevention (OSAP) Dental Infection Control Boot Camp in Chicago; as well as to attend the American Dental Education Association Dental Program Directors' Conference in Minneapolis.



Staci Schory, CDA

"Overall, I feel these activities will support my short- and long-term career goals and help me to continue to promote the dental assisting pro-

fession and expand my knowledge," Ms. Schory says.

Ms. White, of Braselton, Georgia, is a dental assisting student who serves as a SkillsUSA secretary and was recently inducted into the National Technical Honor Society. She plans to use her scholarship to fund taking DANB exams to pursue CDA certification and to attend continuing education seminars, as well as the Thomas P. Hinman Dental Meeting in Atlanta.



Agata White

"I want to educate myself as much as possible, to become successful in my new career," Ms. White says. "Becoming nationally certified would be a wonderful step in the right direction for me and my education. I would love for that dream to become a reality."

Ms. Wright, of Royalston, Massachusetts, has accrued 25 years' worth of experience in the dental field, working in both dental assisting and hygiene, and has been teaching dental assisting at the high school level for almost 15 years. She plans to use her scholarship funds toward completing the OSAP-DALE Foundation Dental Infection Prevention and Control Certificate Program™, as well attending the Yankee Dental Convention in Boston.

"During my years as a dental assisting teacher, I noticed some offices do not have a properly trained infection control coordinator," Ms. Wright shares.

"For this reason, I decided I wanted to become an expert in the area of infection control and pass that expertise on to my students, for them to take into the workforce with them when they graduate. I am extremely excited about finishing the OSAP-DALE Foundation Certificate Program."



Tracie Wright, CDA

Ms. Xayyaveth, of Derby, Connecticut, has been working as a dental assistant for approximately seven years and is in the process of completing a bachelor's degree in public health. She strives to become an expert in the area of infection control and prevention, as well as an educator, so that she can share her knowledge with others to promote safe, healthy dental practices and communities.



Mayuly Xayyaveth, CDA

Ms. Xayyaveth also plans to use her scholarship funds to attend the 2020 OSAP Dental Infection Control Boot Camp. "Attending the OSAP Boot Camp will provide me with a comprehensive review of all the basics of dental infection control, to help ensure that I am following the correct protocols and learning new ways to keep our staff and patients safe," she says. "Enhancing my knowledge in dental infection control will allow for growth in my career as a dental assistant."

To learn about other scholarship opportunities for dental assistants, visit www.danb.org or www.adausa.org.

Dr. Esther Scherb elected to DANB Board

Esther R. Scherb, D.M.D., J.D., has been elected as the new public member on the Dental Assisting National Board's (DANB) Board of Directors.

While Dr. Scherb's service on the DANB Board begins immediately, she'll begin serving her first official term, of two possible three-year terms, starting Sept. 1, 2020. Dr. Scherb previously served as public member on DANB's Board of Directors from 1999 to 2005.

The founder and current managing member of Scherb Law Firm PLLC in Washington, D.C., Dr. Scherb focuses her legal practice on healthcare and regulatory matters, with an emphasis on Medicare, Medicaid and other government programs administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. She regularly counsels clients on the myriad complex and dynamic reimbursement and compliance issues facing today's healthcare and life sciences industries.

Prior to founding Scherb Law Firm, Dr. Scherb served as counsel for over 20 years at two leading global law firms. She has authored numerous articles and client alerts and has been a featured speaker on reimbursement

and regulatory developments for the Practising Law Institute, the American Bar Association, AdvaMed, the Biotechnology Innovation Organization, the American Conference Institute and the Drug Information Association.

Previously in her career, Dr. Scherb served as an attorney for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the General Counsel, as well as a dental officer for the U.S. Navy Dental Corps, providing general dental care to active-duty and retired military personnel, among other roles. Dr. Scherb retired from dental practice to focus solely on her legal practice in 1988.



Esther R. Scherb, D.M.D., J.D.

Dr. Scherb is a member of the American Health Lawyers Association, American Bar Association (for which she also has served as vice chair), District of Columbia Bar, and Virginia State Bar. She is also the founder and president of the Scherb Family Foundation.

Dr. Scherb holds a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Richmond School of Law, a Doctor of Dental Medicine degree from Tufts University School of Dental Medicine, and a Bachelor of Science degree from City University of New York Brooklyn College.

DARW, cont. from p. 3

throughout the school come to the event. We also invite the public to join in on the fun! The event helps our students to further grow into being more confident, well-spoken and informed future dental assistants.

How will you celebrate DARW 2020?

Ruscio: My employer never forgets me during this annual event, but I will add that he makes sure I know that I am valued as his assistant every day! Although DARW isn't new, the introduction of social media platforms has made it possible for dental assistants to connect with other dental assistants all over the country — and this has enhanced DARW's impact, in my opinion. It is so much fun to see all the ways everyone celebrates!

Holley: Our dental practice employs two DANB CDA certificants to assist. I plan to show appreciation for my co-worker by giving a gift and sharing lunch. We work really well together and understand what it takes to make not just our day, but the practice as a whole run smoothly.

Slomski: In addition to the Dental Table Clinics event, lunch will be provided to the dental assistant students, along with a beautiful cake. We usually try to give everyone a small dental-related gift as well.

DANB certifiants aim to elevate their infection control expertise

After several infection control breaches in dental settings made national headlines, the Organization for Safety, Asepsis and Prevention (OSAP), DANB and the DALE Foundation formed a collaboration to spearhead the development of an educational certificate program — the OSAP-DALE Foundation Dental Infection Prevention and Control Certificate Program™ (the OSAP-DALE Foundation Certificate Program) — and two professional certifications (currently in development).

Already, several DANB certifiants have begun to pursue the OSAP-DALE Foundation Certificate Program and elevate their knowledge and expertise.

Leanne Mathieu Kramer, CDA, CDPMA, a compliance trainer with a background in dental assisting, has already completed the first two steps of the OSAP-DALE Foundation Certificate Program and looks forward to taking the third and final step.

In her role, she travels to dental offices in Minnesota, helping teams to write infection control policy manuals and access related training. Mathieu Kramer believes that by completing the first two steps of the OSAP-DALE Foundation Certificate Program, she's gained more tools to help dental clients understand the importance of infection control compliance.

"I have found over the years that when you educate and help dental professionals understand why compliance is important, it is more likely to be followed," she says. "I was drawn to completing the OSAP-DALE Foundation Certificate Program because doing so will further my infection control understanding and give me the depth to be able to help clients, and give them more resources and information."

Sheila Lassiter, CDA, is also in the process of completing the OSAP-DALE Foundation Certificate Program and looks forward to earning the certificate.

Lassiter works as an in-office trainer, a technology adviser for a large dental supply company, and a chairside assistant. She says cross-contamination and improper sterilization processing are some of the most common issues she sees in dental offices.

She believes the knowledge she has gained through completion of steps 1 and 2 of the OSAP-DALE Foundation Certificate Program will allow her to be even more effective in her numerous roles. Specifically, "I have a much better understanding regarding dental unit waterlines and the importance of initial testing and maintenance," Lassiter says.

Tracie Wright, CDA — a dental assisting instructor with approximately 15 years of teaching experience, who also has completed the educational program's first two steps — is preparing to take step 3, the eHandbook Assessment, as well. "I have been working hard," she says.

Like Lassiter, Wright agrees that one of the essential elements the OSAP-DALE Foundation Certificate Program has brought to the forefront

is the importance of dental unit waterline testing, a topic she ensures is covered in her dental assisting curriculum.

Overall, what attracted Wright to this educational program was the opportunity to enhance and share her infection control knowledge as an educator. "I decided I wanted to become an expert in the field of infection control so I could pass that expertise on to my students. This way, when they go out into the real world, they can take that with them and be prepared to step in as an infection control coordinator in any office," Wright elaborates.

Wright not only encourages students to take DANB's Infection Control exam, but she also suggests they consider the OSAP-DALE Foundation Certificate Program, emphasizing the importance of overall continuing dental education.

"I stress to my students all the time that they have to make sure they're doing continuing education," says Wright. "The dental field is constantly changing, with new things to learn all the time. In order to ensure the safety of the patients and dental professionals, you have to make it a priority to stay current in infection control. Any dental professional can complete the OSAP-DALE Foundation Certificate Program — there's no reason why they shouldn't."

Lassiter agrees that by completing the program, dental professionals can ensure they are more knowledgeable and accountable.

"I have been in dentistry almost 30 years, so I have seen a lot of changes in dentistry," she says. "Advancements in technology have made us think and act differently when it comes to infection control. When I first started working, there weren't any intraoral cameras, digital films or computer-aided design and manufacturing technology. We now use these types of equipment and must know how to properly apply infection control practices between each patient."

Thus, dental team members must pursue pertinent, supplemental education, Lassiter says, noting that this is important to avoid becoming stagnant or working with outdated information.

"We all know someone who has been working for years and is stuck in his or her ways, with a

'this is the way I've always done it' mentality," she continues. "Accepting change can be difficult for some, but as I mentioned previously, dentistry has changed. Patients trust we know what we are doing, that we know how to work in a safe and healthy environment."

Mathieu Kramer feels strongly about this, as well. In fact, she believes that "for those who are in charge of infection control for the office, completing the OSAP-DALE Foundation Certificate Program should be a requirement."

Certifiants set their sights on new OSAP-DANB dental infection control certifications

In addition to launching the OSAP-DALE Foundation Certificate Program, as part of the collaboration, OSAP and DANB are developing two professional certifications:

- Certified in Dental Infection Prevention and Control™ (CDIPC™)
- Dental Industry Specialist in Infection Prevention and Control™ (DISIPC™)

The OSAP-DANB CDIPC certification is intended for all dental team members, educators, consultants and supervisors.

The OSAP-DANB DISIPC certification is intended for sales representatives and other professionals who work for the companies that manufacture or distribute dental infection control products; dental practice managers; state regulatory board inspectors or investigators; and anyone else who meets the eligibility requirements.

The pretest for OSAP-DANB CDIPC and DISIPC certifications will be held later this year, and the certifications are expected to be launched in early 2021. Already, there is excitement and anticipation about these new professional certifications.

"I am very interested in the OSAP-DANB DISIPC certification," says Lassiter.

Similarly, Mathieu Kramer has her sights set on pursuing OSAP-DANB CDIPC certification. "I work with dentists around the state, so holding this certification would help show them that I'm qualified to help them with their needs," she says. "It would give more credibility to what I'm doing."

Wright adds she's "absolutely" interested in pursuing OSAP-DANB certification, to demonstrate her commitment to ensuring the protection of both dental patients and professionals.

For more information about these certifications, visit www.dentalinfectioncontrol.org.



Leanne Mathieu Kramer, CDA, CDPMA



Sheila Lassiter, CDA

OSAP-DALE Foundation eHandbook Assessment coming soon

The third and final step of the OSAP-DALE Foundation Dental Infection Prevention and Control Certificate Program™ — the OSAP-DALE Foundation eHandbook Assessment™ (the eHandbook Assessment) — will be available soon!

Learners will be eligible to access the eHandbook Assessment after they have successfully completed the first two steps of the program:

Step 1: Complete the OSAP-DALE Foundation online CDEA® module, Understanding CDC's Summary of Infection Prevention Practices in Dental Settings

Step 2: Complete the OSAP-DALE Foundation Dental Infection Prevention and Control eHandbook™

Steps 1 and 2 can be completed in either order. Those who have completed both steps will be notified via email when step 3, the eHandbook Assessment, is available.

For more information, visit dentalinfectioncontrol.org.

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Calendar of events

DANB and the DALE Foundation will be exhibiting at several upcoming dental conventions. Please stop by our booth for free gifts and information on our latest courses and study aids.

Thomas P. Hinman Dental Meeting

March 19-21, Atlanta, GA

<https://hinman.org>

Oregon Dental Conference

April 2-4, Portland, OR

www.oregondental.org

Western Regional Dental Experience

April 2-4, Glendale, AZ

<https://westernregional.org/2020>

American Association of Dental Boards

Mid-Year Meeting

April 4-5, Chicago, IL

<https://dentalboards.org>

Dental Assisting National Board, Inc.

444 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 900

Chicago, IL 60611-3985



You could be next!

Congratulations to Charmaine G. Bingaman, CDA, and Brenda Amenhauser, CDA, who recognized their DANB certification numbers in the winter 2020 issue of *Certified Press*. If your certification number matches one of the randomly selected numbers below, you can win a \$50 e-gift card.

Notify the DANB Marketing Department at communications@danb.org within 30 days. Be sure to include your name, address and certification number.

237526 155169

198166 232690

223316 230008

Share your stories

DANB certification benefits dental assistants in many ways. How has DANB certification moved your career forward? Send your stories to communications@danb.org for the chance to be featured in *Certified Press*.

By submitting your photos and story to DANB, you grant DANB and its affiliates a royalty-free license to use your content for advertising, promotional or commercial purposes, including without limitation, the right to publicly display, perform, reproduce and distribute your content in any media format or medium and through any media channels.

AADOM deadlines approaching

The American Association of Dental Office Management (AADOM) reminds DANB certificants of the July 10 deadline to apply for Fellowship and/or submit an award nomination.

Apply for AADOM Fellowship: To learn more about or apply for Fellowship, visit the Education > Distinctions section of AADOM's website, www.dentalmanagers.com.

Nominate a colleague: Do you know an outstanding dental office manager? Then AADOM seeks your nomination for the 2020 Practice Administrator of the Year award. Visit the Membership > Recognition section of the website to learn more.

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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, 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.