



Certified Press

Dental Assisting National Board, Inc.

Spring 2021 Digital Issue

CELEBRATE DENTAL ASSISTING EXCELLENCE

Dental Assistants
Recognition Week
March 7-13, 2021

UPDATE FROM THE BOARDS



Dr. Conte



Dr. Dawley

Welcome to the spring 2021 digital issue of *Certified Press*. First, we'd like to wish everyone a very happy Dental Assistants Recognition Week (DARW). This year, DARW is held March 7-13, 2021. DARW is designated by the American Dental Assistants Association (ADAA).

In honor of DARW, this issue spotlights dental assistants and the important contributions they make to the dental practice, to patients, and to their communities. Now more than ever, dental

assistants deserve recognition and thanks for their incredible work. See pages 4-7 for more.

Keeping with this theme, we highlight some notable DANB certificants, including Emily Kate Bowen, CDA, D.D.S., dental assistant program director at Mountain Empire Community College in Virginia. Read more on page 14.

We also commend the winners of the 2020 ADAA/DANB Scholarship. You can read more about these winners on page 10. Congratulations!

On a different note, we'd like to share some news from DANB and the DALE Foundation. We have begun the search for a Chief Executive Officer, following the announcement by Cynthia C. Durley, M.Ed., MBA, that she will be transitioning from her role as Executive Director.

During her tenure with DANB and the DALE Foundation, Ms. Durley helped both organizations grow exponentially in numerous ways. She has been an exceptional leader, and we have been fortunate to work alongside her during our service on the DANB and DALE Foundation Boards. Ms. Durley will continue to serve as Executive Director until a successor is hired, at which time she will transition to a consulting position for DANB and the DALE Foundation.

DANB and the DALE Foundation have selected Kittleman & Associates, a national executive recruiting firm, to conduct the search for the CEO. [Visit Kittleman's website to learn more about the CEO position.](#)

We thank Ms. Durley for her years of service and appreciate her interest and willingness to remain with DANB and the DALE Foundation in a consulting position. We also look forward to welcoming the new CEO once the selection is made.

Stay tuned to the next issue of *Certified Press* for more updates on these exciting transitions. And, enjoy your Dental Assistants Recognition Week!

Sincerely,

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

Joanne Dawley, D.D.S.
President, DALE Foundation Board of Trustees

NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear DANB Certificants,

I have some personal and professional news that I would like to share with you. After 35 years with DANB, and the last 10 years working to establish and grow the DALE Foundation, I have made the difficult decision to step down from the position of Executive Director of these two organizations.

I will continue to serve as Executive Director until a successor is hired to take on the role of CEO, at which time I plan to work for both organizations in a consulting position.

DANB and the DALE Foundation have many exciting developments underway, and our future is bright. The DANB and DALE Foundation Boards are working to finalize the new DANB/DALE Foundation strategic plan, which will serve as a road map for our organizations in the years to come.

Looking back, I have seen the dental assisting profession grow in many exciting ways. I have witnessed states expand the duties that dental assistants are allowed to perform. I have seen the profession embrace new technologies. And recently, with the spread of COVID-19, the role of the dental assistant in infection prevention and control — an area that has always been important — has taken center stage.

Throughout all these years and changes, DANB and the DALE Foundation have been dedicated to supporting the oral healthcare profession and the individuals within it, including those who proudly hold DANB certification. In the last 10 years alone, DANB has introduced three new certifications and later this year will pretest two new certifications that DANB has developed with the Organization for Safety, Asepsis and Prevention (OSAP).

The DALE Foundation has grown its educational offerings from just a few options to now more than 30 online resources, including the comprehensive OSAP-DALE Foundation Dental Infection Prevention and Control Certificate Program™. These are just a few examples.

It has been an honor and a privilege to work alongside so many incredibly talented oral healthcare professionals, as well as a truly dedicated staff. I have been so proud to play a role in the accomplishments DANB and the DALE Foundation have achieved, and I am excited and hopeful for the future of the dental assisting profession.

Sincerely,

Cynthia C. Durley, M.Ed., MBA
Executive Director, DANB and the DALE Foundation



The dental assisting program at Southeastern Technical Institute in South Easton, Massachusetts, contributed this photo from their DARW celebrations held in March 2020.

HONORING DENTAL ASSISTANTS DURING DARW

This year, more than ever, dental assistants deserve recognition and thanks during Dental Assistants Recognition Week

This year, Dental Assistants Recognition Week (DARW) is held March 7-13, 2021. Dental assistants are valuable members of the dental team who contribute to the practice and the care of patients in numerous ways.

Dental assistants have always played a critical role on the dental team, with a wide range of responsibilities. Whether stepping up to help provide emergency dental care, implementing infection control protocols, or providing extra patient comfort and care, dental assistants' outstanding efforts deserve praise. Dental assistants are truly essential.

Since spring 2020, in particular, dental assistants have navigated many new changes and challenges as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Through it all, dental assistants also have demonstrated their resilience, in both big and small ways. For this, dental assistants deserve all the recognition in the world — and especially during DARW.

[The importance of dental assisting](#)

Heather Wyman, CDPMA, an office manager for an orthodontics practice in Massachusetts, points to several reasons why dental assistants are so important. “The dental practice could not be open without loyal staff,” she says. “I commend the dental assistants who are working chairside today — and especially those who started working with dental emergencies when the



Heather Wyman, CDPMA

COVID-19 outbreak was just beginning. The dental assistants and dental teams who were working put themselves on the line because they knew the need for action outweighed the initial reaction to stay safe at home.

“There was a great deal of catchup to do once our offices reopened,” Wyman continues. “There seemed to be a peripheral dam of patients bursting at the seams with multiple issues to funnel into a small amount of triage time. Without our brave staff, we would still be catching up today.”

Ashley Welter, CDA, has been a dental assistant for nearly eight years, and in that time has worked in Alabama and Hawaii. Welter stresses that dental assistants do much more than what the public often realizes. “We don’t just sit in a chair handing instruments and suctioning saliva,” she says. “So much more goes into our job duties. We have to keep our patients safe and protected from disease.”

Considering the COVID-19 pandemic, Welter stresses that dental assistants are more important than ever, especially for educating and comforting patients. “We have to show them that additional precautions are being taken to keep them safe while addressing their dental concerns,” she explains. “There is so much anxiety associated with dentistry already. It’s our job to ease patients’ minds.”

Doreen Denisty, CDA, dental assistant supervisor with the Indian Health Services in Arizona, has been working in the dental field for nearly 50 years. She says in her career, she has seen the role of dental assistants grow and expand, and especially lately.



Ashley Welter, CDA



Doreen Denisty, CDA

“The one thing I’ve really noticed, which I love to see, is the assistants today are doing far more proactive care than I did in the ’70s,” Denisty notes. “Today, there are more dental assisting programs and more credentials that dental assistants can earn than there were back then. Since the beginning of my career, I’ve always thought dental assisting has been very rewarding. It may be even more so now.”

The heart of dental assisting

Dental assistants often go the extra mile to provide the best patient care possible. Those moments not only make an impact on patients, but dental assistants also carry those heartwarming encounters with them.

Renee Odmark, CDA, of Shoreview, Minnesota, has been DANB certified and working as a dental assistant for almost 35 years. In addition to working full-time as a dental assistant, over



Renee Odmark, CDA

the years, Odmark has spent time volunteering in a variety of locations.

Odmark reflects on her time working closely with a mobile clinic called Doorstep Healthcare Services, where the salon rooms in a senior center were turned into a small hygiene clinic. Odmark and the other dental staff helped senior care center patients — and their reaction to receiving treatment made the experience truly priceless.

“The clinic provided basic cleanings, as many of the residents didn’t have the dexterity to clean their teeth,” Odmark shares. “They would wait their turn to get their teeth cleaned, and when they were done, they would come out smiling, proud to show off their new smile.”

Starting about a decade ago, Odmark also has volunteered at a homeless shelter, Sharing and Caring Hands in Minneapolis. “Dental care is available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Dentists provide basic fillings and extraction services for those who have little to no dental coverage,” she describes. “When these patients have little to nothing left and they have dental pain, that is when we have the privilege to step in and at least take their pain away — and they are so very grateful.”

But perhaps Odmark’s most memorable recent experience has been volunteering, which then turned into a full-time job, with Adopt a Smile as a dental assistant, utilizing the Salvation Army’s mobile dental care unit, Lil’ Flossie. “It had two clinic chairs, one in front and one in back, and the sterilization area in the middle,” Odmark shares. “We would travel around the Minneapolis/Saint Paul metropolitan area schools. A few of us would go into the junior and senior high health classes to teach them about the importance of their diet and lifestyles.

“After proper consent forms were completed,” she continues, “our bus would pull up next to the school. We had a team of hygienists, dentists and assistants who would volunteer their time to help children get dental care that their families could not afford.”

Denisty also is able to look back on all the heartwarming moments she’s experienced in her career, and especially over the past 16 years as a dental assistant supervisor.

When asked about how her team of eight assistants went above and beyond in 2020 specifically, Denisty spoke of their efforts to screen and care for patients. This included in parking lots and in a main dental clinic located in a hospital setting, where COVID-19-exposure concerns were constant especially early on in the pandemic.

“The pandemic has taken what we do — providing the best and safest possible care — to another level,” Denisty reflects. “My staff have been incredible and haven’t missed a beat. Caring for our patients with the possibility of exposure to COVID-19 isn’t easy.”

Denisty commends her colleagues for stepping up to the challenge and continuing to serve dental patients of all types. “We all volunteer outside of the clinic as well,” she explains. “We work the screening stations, run medications to the patients in their cars and hold a position on

the department's infection control team. Even though 2020 was challenging, it hasn't stopped this dental team from being their best, doing their best and providing the safest care."

The future of dental assisting

Despite the challenges of 2020 and ongoing changes in 2021, dental assistants are hopeful for the future and optimistic about where dental assisting is heading.

Wyman says she hopes dental treatment becomes more accessible. "With the increased interest in access to healthcare, I would like to see more access to dental care as a medically necessary component of overall healthcare," she states. "I also see that treatment is becoming more accessible for people with the use of digital technology. Whether we can scan someone's mouth to avoid an impression or deliver digitally fabricated aligners for people who are not fans of fixed appliances, I think this technology is heading in the right direction."

Odmark agrees that technology has accelerated the pace of the profession. "From when I started in dental assisting in 1988, it's like being on a treadmill that started at a walking speed and now is turned up to a running speed," she says. "Everything is fast — the computers, the scanners, the mill — but the one thing that has stayed the same is the focus on caring for the patient in the chair."

From her perspective, Welter concurs. She says she enjoys helping patients and building a bond with them. "I love helping them overcome their dental fears and giving them a reason to smile again," she explains. "It truly changes their lives. It is an honor to take part in that.

"I truly hope that as the years go by," Welter continues, "dental assistants are more valued, respected, and appreciated by their employers and teammates. We play such an important role in dentistry, and I just want that to be recognized."

For Denisty, she encourages her staff to focus on enjoying each day and being proactive about their professional goals. "Enjoying your career is essential to a great future in dentistry," she states. "I have always felt so blessed in my career and enjoyed meeting so many different people and working with some incredible doctors. The joy that comes from knowing you did your best job and you made a difference in others' lives is exciting for me."



Doreen Denisty, CDA, far left in the back row, with her dental assisting staff.

DANB LAUNCHES ONLINE PROCTORED EXAMS

Through offering online proctored exams, DANB strives to make exams more accessible

Starting on Jan. 20, 2021, DANB introduced online proctoring for select DANB exams. The online proctoring option is available for these DANB exams:

- [Anatomy, Morphology and Physiology \(AMP\)](#)
- [General Chairside Assisting \(GC\)](#)
- [Infection Control \(ICE\)](#)
- [Radiation Health and Safety \(RHS\)](#)

DANB online proctored exams will be offered through DANB's testing vendor Pearson VUE's OnVUE system. Pearson VUE's OnVUE system offers a reliable and secure way for exam candidates to take DANB exams from their home, office or another private location.



Candidates may take DANB online proctored exams if they have a computer and testing space that meet Pearson VUE's requirements. Online proctored exams need to be scheduled in advance, but appointments are offered 24/7 so candidates can find a time that is convenient for their schedule.

“Offering online proctored exams will make DANB exams more accessible to exam candidates, especially those who do not live near a testing center or who live in an area where testing centers have limited appointment availability, whether due to COVID-19 or other reasons,” says DANB Executive Director Cynthia C. Durley, M.Ed., MBA. “We are pleased to offer this option to exam candidates, as accessibility of DANB exams is a core part of our organization’s mission.”

Like taking an exam in-person at a testing center, candidates who take an online proctored exam are monitored by a proctor. However, with online proctored exams, the proctor is offsite and monitors the candidate live through the candidate's computer's microphone and webcam.

DANB will continue to offer all of its exams in-person at Pearson VUE testing centers.

[Learn more about online proctored exams.](#)

THE DALE FOUNDATION OFFERS TWO NEW RESOURCES

Earlier this year, the DALE Foundation introduced two new resources to help oral healthcare professionals achieve their career goals:

- [Dental Instruments Guide](#)
- [COVID-19 Respiratory Droplet and Aerosol Protection](#)

Get the guide to dental instruments

The DALE Foundation's Dental Instruments Guide provides definitions, images and common uses for dental instruments in all areas of general and specialty dentistry. A handy resource for those who are new to the profession, need a refresher or are taking on a different role, the Dental Instruments Guide will help learners recognize dental instruments at a glance and describe their functions with accurate terminology.



The instruments are organized by categories, but can also be viewed alphabetically to help learners review in different ways, from focusing on a specific dental practice area to reviewing the tools A-Z.

Learn to limit the spread of COVID-19 following guidelines for respiratory protection



The Organization for Safety, Asepsis and Prevention (OSAP) and the DALE Foundation recently published a new Continuing Dental Education Articles (CDEA) module: COVID-19 Respiratory Droplet and Aerosol Protection.

The interactive module presents a real-world scenario that provides context for respiratory droplet and aerosol protection during the COVID-19 pandemic. Learners can review how to establish and maintain a safe

work environment and limit the spread of contamination based on Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requirements for respiratory protection.

Learners will earn 2 CE credits in infection control upon successful completion of the module.

This CDEA module was originally published in OSAP's Infection Control In Practice Team Huddle™.

For more information about either of these new resources, visit the DALE Foundation's course catalog at www.dalefoundation.org.



From left, 2020 ADAA/DANB Scholarship winners Sydney Rogers; Carman Duerr, CDA, FADAA; and Sarah Stream, CDA, FADAA.

WINNERS NAMED FOR THE 2020 ADAA/DANB SCHOLARSHIP

The American Dental Assistants Association (ADAA) and the Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) have selected the winners of the 2020 ADAA/DANB Scholarship, which was founded to help dental assistants turn their professional development plans into reality.

This year, out of 26 applicants, the ADAA/DANB Scholarship Committee selected three winners:

- Carman Duerr, CDA, FADAA
- Sydney Rogers
- Sarah Stream, CDA, FADAA

Carman Duerr, CDA, FADAA, of Wolverton, Minnesota, is employed by Anderson & Breeding Dental. She has worked in the dental assisting profession for nearly 20 years. Duerr earned ADAA Fellowship in May 2020 and aims to earn ADAA Mastership. Additionally, she serves as the North Dakota Dental Assistants Association state representative. She was recently elected as vice chair of the Dental Assisting Advisory Board at Minnesota State Community and Technical College-Moorhead campus, and volunteers with the Red River Valley Dental Access Project to help improve access to care in Minnesota. Duerr plans to use her scholarship funds to offset the cost of completing a restorative expanded functions course at the University of Minnesota.

“Throughout my career, I have always strived to do my best and excel in my duties,” Duerr says. “I am always willing to learn, push myself to go further, and do as much as I can in my work. I’m looking forward to using this scholarship to complete more continuing education to fulfill the ADAA’s Mastership requirements.” Duerr also thanks her husband, Brad, and their three children for supporting her in her career.

Sydney Rogers, of Hattiesburg, Mississippi, earned an associate degree in dental sciences from Antonelli College in 2019 and now works as a dental assistant and dental office manager at Columbia Family Dental. Rogers has her sights set on earning DANB’s Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) certification, plus earning Fellowship in the ADAA. She plans to use her scholarship funds to support these goals.

“I have found a career that I love and want to learn everything I can about it,” Rogers says. “Working as a dental assistant is not just a job — it is a journey that I have only just begun, which has changed my life.”

Sarah Stream, CDA, FADAA, of Glenwood, Iowa, has been working in the dental assisting profession since 2007, most recently in the role of infection preventionist for the Nebraska Infection Control Assessment and Promotion Program dental team. To continue expanding her knowledge in the critical area of infection control, Stream used her scholarship funds to attend the 2021 virtual Organization for Safety, Asepsis and Prevention (OSAP) Dental Infection Control Boot Camp. She is working toward completing the OSAP-DALE Foundation Dental Infection Prevention and Control Certificate Program™ and plans to pursue OSAP-DANB Certified in Dental Infection Prevention and Control™ (CDIPC™) certification.

“Attending this meeting has been a dream of mine for many years — and this is the year that I made it happen,” Stream says. “I will be using the knowledge I gain to help support dental facilities with their general infection control and COVID-19-based response needs.”

About the scholarship

The ADAA/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 lifelong learning in the dental assisting profession. To learn about other scholarship opportunities for dental assistants, visit www.danb.org or www.adausa.org.

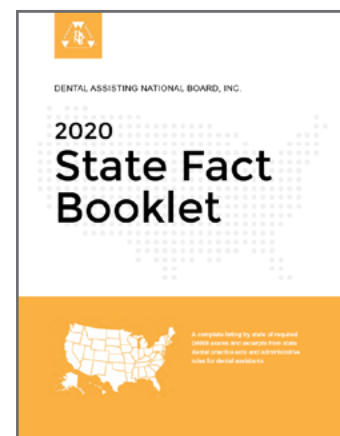
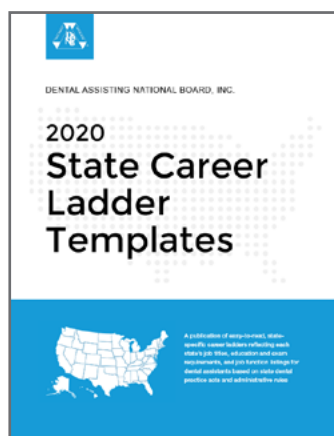
NOW ONLINE: DANB'S STATE BOOKS

DANB's new digital publications offer access from a desktop computer or mobile device, searchable pages, and more

To help dental professionals stay informed of the latest dental assisting requirements, DANB has updated its state dental assisting requirement publications:

[DANB's 2020 State Career Ladder Templates for Dental Assistants](#) features easy-to-use charts with information on each state's requirements and career paths for dental assistants. Each state chart highlights job designations; education, exam and training requirements; allowable functions; non-delegable functions; and levels of supervision required in each state. The volume also contains a chart summarizing dental assistants' roles in sedation procedures.

[DANB's 2020 State Fact Booklet](#) provides excerpts from state dental practice acts and regulations related specifically to the dental assistant, as well as dental board contact information, the number of DANB certificants in each state, comparative salary information, a synopsis of expanded functions and radiography requirements, excerpts of regulations addressing dental assistants' roles in anesthesia and sedation, and a list of Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA)-accredited dental assisting programs.



DANB exams are recognized or required by 37 states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Air Force and the Department of Veterans Affairs. However, dental assisting requirements vary from state to state, and there are more than 40 different job titles for dental assistants. As a result, comparing dental assisting requirements across states can be challenging.

“Dental professionals and state regulators need access to the most up-to-date information on dental assisting regulations, rules and requirements,” says DANB Executive Director Cynthia C. Durley, M.Ed., MBA. “DANB’s *State Fact Booklet* and *Career Ladder Templates for Dental Assistants* provide that critical information in an easy-to-access, easy-to-compare format.”

Now, DANB's two publications are available online. There are several benefits to the online publications, including the ability to:

- Access the books from a desktop computer or mobile device
- Search the publications for keywords
- Jump directly to a state's section using links in the table of contents

Also new: DANB has completed a total redesign of DANB's *State Career Ladder Templates* for the 2020 edition. The new design was developed based on stakeholder feedback, with the goal of making the state templates more readable.

[Additional online resources](#)

More state-specific information is available on DANB's website:

- [Search-by-state online map](#). DANB publishes dental assisting requirements by state, which can be viewed on DANB's search-by-state map featured on the DANB website. The search-by-state map links to comprehensive information on each state's requirements for dental assistants, including job titles, recognition of DANB exams, and allowed and prohibited dental assisting functions.
- [State dental practice act look-up tool](#). DANB provides an online tool that links to state dental practice acts, state statutes, regulations and administrative rules governing the practice of each member of the dental team. This tool was developed through a collaborative endeavor between the American Association of Dental Boards and DANB.

To learn more, visit the "Meet State Requirements" section of www.danb.org.

INFECTION CONTROL EXPERT RETIRING FROM DANB EXAM COMMITTEE WORK

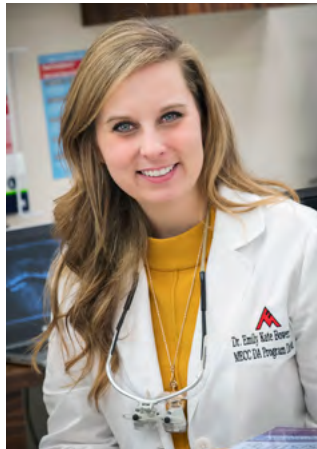


Peggy Spitzer, RDH, M.A.Ed., clinical education manager with medical and dental infection control product manufacturer Certol International, has announced her retirement from DANB's exam development committees. Ms. Spitzer's committee involvement, particularly with DANB's Infection Control (ICE) Exam Development Committee, dates back to 2013. "We thank Ms. Spitzer for all she has done to promote dental patient and personnel safety through her many years of service," says Cynthia C. Durley, M.Ed., MBA, DANB Executive Director.

NEW DENTAL ASSISTING PROGRAM FINDS FIRST-YEAR SUCCESS

Dental assistant program director Dr. Bowen reflects on new program's accomplishments in 2020, despite pandemic challenges

Going into spring 2020, Emily Kate Bowen, CDA, D.D.S., of Appalachia, Virginia, had recently reached two big career milestones.



Dr. Bowen earned DANB Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) certification in December 2019, plus had an instrumental role in launching the dental assistant program at Mountain Empire Community College (MECC) in January 2020.

“My decision to earn DANB certification went hand-in-hand with preparing to launch the program,” explains Dr. Bowen, who since 2017 had worked as an adjunct biology faculty member at the college before taking on her new position a year ago. “Although I had a background in dentistry, and I had experience in assisting before I attended dental school at Virginia Commonwealth University School of Dentistry, the college administration and I felt that it would be worthwhile that I seek DANB certification.”

Dr. Bowen recognizes all the benefits that certification can bring to a dental professional's career. “There's a lot of value in holding DANB certification in order to stay current in your profession,” she elaborates. “Certification helps me to be up-to-date about what I should know, as well as what my students should know and the resources available to them.”

Dr. Bowen's students take the three exams that make up DANB's National Entry Level Dental Assistant (NELDA) certification. Dr. Bowen believes holding NELDA certification is important for students to demonstrate their knowledge and sets them apart when they enter the profession. “I hope that moving forward, students will be motivated to earn more DANB credentials,” she says.

Continuing to elevate education through volunteerism

Besides encouraging students to pursue DANB certification and use DALE Foundation review courses and practice tests to help them prepare for DANB exams, Dr. Bowen also strives to connect them to volunteer opportunities. Through volunteerism, both the students and the community benefit, she believes. “There's a tremendous need for oral healthcare in our area,” she explains. “We've made a lot of strides, but access to care is still a big issue.”

Over the past year, Dr. Bowen and her students have had to reimagine how to continue volunteering with social-distancing considerations in mind. “It's been important to me and our college to continue emphasizing connecting with the community,” says Dr. Bowen, herself a volunteer, including with the University of Virginia's (UVA) Cancer Center Without Walls.

Spotlight on Excellence

For example, Dr. Bowen and her students had hoped to replicate a successful toothbrush-distribution “Trunk-or-Treat” event held in October 2019 at the Center for Workforce and Innovation of Appalachia, which drew about 400 elementary school students.

“We simply could not host a Halloween event in 2020 of that size. That was out of the question due to COVID-19 exposure concerns,” Dr. Bowen reflects. “So, I talked to a teacher at a local elementary school, and we decided that instead, Halloween treat bags would be given to each first-grader.” These bags included candy, a toothbrush and plaque-disclosing tablets. Dental assisting students also recorded videos of themselves reading dental-related children’s books, which were also shared with the students.

Similarly, while the college’s annual human papillomavirus (HPV) awareness event was held in person pre-pandemic, during the first week of March 2020, this year’s event took a virtual approach. Recently, about 40 to 50 students and community members attended a movie screening of “Someone You Love,” sponsored by Virginia’s HPV Immunization Taskforce and UVA’s Cancer Center Without Walls.

“If we can increase patient literacy, some of the oral health problems we typically see can be prevented. The more people know, the more they can improve their own personal health,” Dr. Bowen says. “Our goal is to expand education.”

Positioning the program for success now and in the future

Dr. Bowen is proud to look back on 2020 and see success, despite the challenges raised by the COVID-19 pandemic last spring.

Like so many dental assisting educators, Dr. Bowen led the program’s effort to pivot to online learning in spring 2020. The program has since adopted a hybrid model, with lectures online, two on-campus lab days and, in the near future, clinicals one day per week.

The bottom line for Dr. Bowen is to continue expanding education, no matter the circumstances. And thanks to Dr. Bowen’s efforts, as well as the college’s ongoing teamwork, the future is bright for the MECC’s new dental assistant program and its students.

“There are always growing pains with any new program, but starting in the middle of a pandemic and balancing the hybrid-remote learning have been especially difficult,” Dr. Bowen acknowledges.

“I’d like to extend a huge shoutout to our MECC adjunct faculty members and to students for their resilience. We couldn’t have done this without them.”



In October 2020, MECC students distributed Halloween treat bags and videos of themselves reading dental-related children’s books to local first-graders.

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