

Introducing the American Dental Education Association

TEXT: Evelyn Lucas-Perry

Hello All! My name is Evelyn Lucas-Perry and I am currently serving my second term as the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) Vice President for Students, Residents, and Fellows. The ADEA Council of Students, Residents, and Fellows (ADEA CoSRF) would like to use the opportunity to share the mission, activities, and efforts of our Association.

Before I can properly introduce you to ADEA CoSRF, let me give you a better understanding of ADEA as a whole. Since 1923, the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) has served as the national voice of academic dentistry for individuals and institutions within the dental education community. As you all are aware, the dental education community extends beyond dental students and includes faculty members, program directors, administrators, dental industry organizations, specialists, dental hygienists, dental assistants and dental laboratory technicians. Therefore, ADEA boasts a diverse 18,000 membership.

How we are organized

Diversity within ADEA is reflected in its governance, which is primarily comprised

of seven Councils; the Council of Deans, the Council of Allied Dental Program Directors, the Council of Faculties, the Council of Hospitals and Advanced Education Programs, the Council of Sections, the Corporate Council and of course, the Council of Students, Residents and Fellows (CoSRF). Each Council elects its own five-member Administrative Board including a Vice President who serves on the 11-member ADEA Board of Directors. The Administrative Board selects delegates to vote on ADEA resolutions and makes recommendations for ADEA appointments. Councils are responsible for directing their Council's business while implementing the overarching strategic direction of ADEA. Each Council is encouraged to organize, provide resources, and voice the perspective of its



individual Council. Nonetheless, collaboration amongst Councils and a focus to enhance the entire dental community remains the primary objective.

The mission

The mission of the ADEA CoSRF is to serve as the national voice and advocate for all students, residents, and fellows in the dental education community by addressing the issues that shape the present and future of dental education. In addition to providing input into both dental and allied dental education, ADEA CoSRF promotes student activity within research, journalism, CoSRF leadership, ADEA ini-

tiatives, and the dental education community. A continued focus of our Council is exposing, preparing and encouraging students to consider a career in dental education. To complement our individual efforts, ADEA CoSRF partners with other student dental organizations to promote the involvement of students in the advancement of dental education.

United States and Canadian dental institutions are faced with the fast pace nature of technology, an insufficient teaching workforce, and preparing dental students for an interdisciplinary, expanding dental market. Conversely, United

States and Canadian dental students are facing the innovative changes within the dental curriculum, the implications of the rising cost of dental education and the ethical considerations involved in international service outreach. The 2011–2012 ADEA CoSRF Administrative Board is addressing these and other germane issues through policy resolutions, informational forums and recommendations. ADEA CoSRF is determined to inject the student perspective in these matters and is given a sound, respected voice within ADEA.

Advancing through Collaboration

As a conscious organization, ADEA CoSRF is constantly exploring ways to advance and improve our initiatives, position and reach. We aspire to positively impact the current and future dental student as they join you and matriculate into the dental workforce. Through collaboration with organizations such as Young Dentists Worldwide, a collective effort can enhance the academic experience and outlook for those within the dental education community.

Most of you have graduated from your formal education program and are serving as practitioners, administrators, and possibly even educators. Nevertheless, your dental education did not end after leaving the confines of your dental institutions. Rather, your capacity and quest for

knowledge will be enhanced by your newly assumed title, responsibility, and autonomy. Thus, your involvement and engagement within dental education serves to directly benefit you, your colleagues and your profession.

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Dr. Evelyn Lucas-Perry DDS, MPH is the ADEA Vice President for Students, Residents, and Fellows and member of the ADEA Board of Directors. Dr.

Lucas-Perry completed all of her higher education at the University of Michigan and will begin specialty training in Dental Public Health at the National Institute of Health’s National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research.

As life-long learners and members of the dental education community I welcome your commentary, valued insights, and unique perspectives to

✉ **ADEACoSRF@gmail.com.**

Additionally, please visit www.adea.org for more information as well as educational resources.

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