

Chattanooga State Community College
Dental Programs Update



As liaison between Chattanooga State and CADS, on behalf of our dental programs, I would like to thank all of our dentists and their staff members for hosting student externs for both dental hygiene and dental assisting. As you know, the hands-on piece of student's education is so valuable and a part of our accreditation standards. Thank you for opening your offices to our students and faculty.

Not only have you all given of your time, but of financial resources for our scholarship program through the Chattanooga State foundation. Thank you. We always appreciate your support for our programs!!

At this time the dental hygiene program has the largest enrollment in the history of the program; almost 50 students between first and second year (23 second 24 first). We are absolutely trying to meet the demand for hygienists. On the other hand, due to the pandemic, enrollment for dental assisting is down. If you know of anyone interested in dentistry, please have them contact me for advising on how to apply to either program.

Regarding our facilities, our clinic is now completely digital/electronic. We utilize all modes of digital imaging and are utilizing curve dental software. We are anticipating opening a simulation lab in 2023, having received a 400K grant this summer.

Many of you met Dr. Mark Knutsen, our Dean of Nursing and Allied Health. As you will remember, he was a dental hygienist, taught in several dental hygiene programs and served as a board examiner just to name a few of his roles. I am sad to report that he retired as of June 2022. However, we welcome our new interim Dean Dr. Martina Harris. She has been the director of our nursing department for some time. I hope to introduce you to her soon.

Chattanooga State hosts SRTA clinical dental hygiene boards on site, and next year we will offer them earlier in April, so students can be licensed sooner following graduation. We are making every effort to add to the dental workforce in a timely manner. We had 100 percent pass rate on DH National boards again this year and 100 percent licensure in the state of TN!

Lastly, 2022 is a big year for our dental programs. In November, we are gearing up for the accreditation process with the Commission on Dental Accreditation with the American Dental Association. We will be asking some of you to participate on our Advisory Committee, tentatively scheduled for November 2 at lunch time. We appreciate your support in this effort, as it is truly a team approach to educating our dental auxiliaries, and requires input from you, our dental community.

Yours sincerely,

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