



Dentistry IN SOUTH DAKOTA

Allied Staff News

2024 Sioux Empire Smiles

The Southeastern District Dental Society hosted the Sioux Empire Smiles event on Saturday, September 28, and provided over \$70,000 in free dental care to 133 youth at risk. Children’s Dental Center generously donated the use of their clinic, parking lot, and many of their staff for the event. We were grateful to have volunteer dentists, hygienists, assistants, office administration, language interpreters and students from South Dakota join us to share their time and talents. They helped provide dental screenings, restorative treatments, cleanings, and oral health education. Follow-up appointments and surgical procedures were necessary for some of the children seen that day. We extend a huge thank you to all the dentists and dental teams that took additional dental appointments and completed surgeries to help improve the oral health of so many children. If you are interested in volunteering at the 2025 event, email melissa@sddental.org to receive more information. **Our tentative date is scheduled for Saturday, October 4, 2025. Mark your calendars!**



Fall 2024 Enrollment for Dental Assisting Full at Lake Area Technical College in Anticipation of Fall 2025 Dental Hygiene Program

Lake Area Technical College (LATC) is experiencing high demand for its dental assisting program, with enrollment for the Fall 2024 semester at full capacity with 48 students and 6 online students. This surge in interest is largely attributed to the anticipation of the college's upcoming dental hygiene program, which is set to launch in Fall 2025 in the newly remodeled clinical space which was completed the Fall of 2020 prior to the start of the semester.

The dental assisting program, which prepares students for roles in various dental practices, has consistently been a popular choice among prospective students interested in dental healthcare. However, this year, the program has seen an especially high level of interest as students seek to gain foundational experience and skills in preparation for the highly anticipated dental hygiene program next year. The new dental hygiene program is expected to offer a broader range of career opportunities to help meet the employment needs of dental offices in the state, building on the technical expertise students acquire in the dental assisting AAS program for a 1+1 degree.

According to LATC officials, the college is committed to expanding opportunities for students in the growing healthcare field. With the dental hygiene program's introduction, students will have the chance to pursue more advanced clinical training and certification, positioning them for success in dental care by providing both hygiene and assisting skills.

While enrollment for dental assisting is nearly full for Fall 2025, LATC encourages interested students to apply early for upcoming semesters. Additionally, the dental hygiene application window is currently open to those who meet the admissions criteria. As healthcare needs continue to grow, Lake Area Technical College remains at the forefront of providing quality education and training to meet industry demands.



Give Kids A Smile Day



Each year, beginning on the first Friday in February, thousands of dentists and their dental team members provide free oral health care services to children from low-income families. The ADA's Give Kids A Smile® (GKAS) program enhances the oral health of large numbers of children in need. For policy makers, these activities also highlight the ongoing challenges that low-income families face in finding dental care.

SDDA members are encouraged to host a GKAS day in their own office. Working alongside a local non-profit or children’s organization is a great way to find underserved patients who need dental care. For a complete kit on hosting GKAS and to register to participate, go to www.ada.org/gkas.

Board of Dentistry Denies Scope of Practice Petition

The South Dakota State Board of Dentistry has denied all three proposals brought to them by the South Dakota Dental Association during their October 18, 2024 meeting. The proposals asked for changes that would have affected the scope of procedures that could be performed by dental assistants, registered dental assistants, and dental hygienists.

The first proposal requested the Board allow dental hygienist or a registered dental assistant to place, finish, and adjust direct restorations; as well as adapt and cement stainless steel crowns.

The second proposal requested the Board allow a registered dental assistant to perform supragingival scaling when there has been a diagnosis of a patient's periodontal health or condition within the last 13 months and when the patient has no prior diagnosis of periodontal disease.

The third proposal requested the Board allow a dental assistant to administer nitrous oxide inhalation analgesia to dental patients on an outpatient basis so long as the dental assistants administering nitrous oxide adhere to the same administrative rules placed on registered dental assistants administering nitrous oxide.

All three proposals requested the Board to require the completion of a Board-approved training program or educational course in order to apply for a permit to perform the expanded functions.

The Board's grounds for denying the proposals include:

- Practical challenges with implementation;
- Inability to enforce and to meet the legal evidentiary standards required of the Board;
- Inability to enforce ethical standards;
- Lack of current statutory authority;
- Lack of uniform accredited educational standards;
- Difference in educational and/or training standards outlined in the proposal as compared to current licensees and registrants; and
- Need to engage stakeholders on the content of the SDDA Petition given the split vote of the SDDA and divided stakeholder feedback received by the Board.

Although there are other pathways for changes to the Dental Practice Act, the SDDA Board of Trustees has decided to not pursue the proposals any further.

Western Dakota Technical College Proposes Dental Hygiene Program to Address Growing Workforce Needs

Western Dakota Technical College (WDTC) in Rapid City, S.D., has submitted a proposal to launch a Dental Hygiene A.A.S. degree program in Fall 2026, pending approval by the South Dakota Board of Technical Education.

The proposal responds to a growing demand for dental hygienists, with area dentists citing workforce shortages. Rapid City is home to 94 active dental offices, and Pennington County currently employs 105 dental hygienists. Projections show a 21.8% growth in dental hygiene job openings within a 150-mile radius over the next decade—significantly higher than the national projection of 8.2%.* These numbers do not account for retirements and natural turnover.

"Without enough trained hygienists, dental offices struggle to fill vacancies, leading to overworked staff, delayed appointments, and limited patient access," said Chanin Hughes, WDTC Dental Assisting Program Director. "This program would help meet a critical need while offering excellent career opportunities."

WDTC's service area currently lacks local Dental Hygiene training programs. The nearest options are located hundreds of miles away in Vermillion, S.D.; Sheridan, Wyo.; and soon, Watertown, S.D. WDTC's program would provide essential support to address the unique workforce demands of western South Dakota.

For more information, contact Chanin Hughes at (605) 718-3057 or Chanin.Hughes@wdt.edu.

Source: *Lightcast Analyst, August 2024. Data reflects projections within 150 miles of Rapid City, S.D.*



Dental Office Staff Can Join the SDDA as an Allied Member

Not only dentists can be members of the SDDA. We offer a unique Allied Membership to all dental professionals including: RDH's, RDA's, dental assistants, office managers, and insurance administrators. One of the biggest benefits of becoming a member is a \$0 registration fee for the Annual Session. That is a savings of \$225! Other added benefits include discounted rates for continued education and webinars, monthly communication from the SDDA and quarterly newsletters, and access to technical assistance with questions regarding regulations and compliance. The Allied Membership rate for 2025 is \$120. Make sure to visit with your employer as they may cover your membership cost. They appreciate the savings and direct communication from the SDDA. Check out the sneak peek below! Become an Allied Member and plan to join us in May!



2025 ANNUAL SESSION - SNEAK PEEK

Dr. Joy D. Void-Holmes, RDH, BSDH, DHSc

Dr. Joy is a professional speaker and published author. Her specialties are clinical dental hygiene to include ultrasonic and manual instrumentation, ergonomics, infection control, pain management, along with nutrition and biochemistry, and oral health education.

Courses: Smart Scaling & The Paradigm Shift

Karen Daw, MBA, CECM, CDIPC

Karen's in-depth, informative workshops put principle into practice by taking an unexpected, engaging approach to compliance training topics like: hand hygiene, sharps safety, instrument sterilizations, and appropriate barriers for bloodborne, contact, droplet, and airborne pathogens. **Course: Talking Dirty: Presentation on OSHA & Infection Control**

Brian Nový, DDS

Dr. Nový is the Chief Dental Officer at the Alliance Dental Center in Quincy, Massachusetts, and holds faculty appointments at three dental schools. He served on the ADA Council of Scientific Affairs 2011-2014 and was chair of the CAMBRA Coalition. The American Dental Association awarded Dr. Nový and his office the title, "Adult Preventive Care Practice of the Year." **Courses: Offensive Dentistry & Nobody Caries**

Ankur Gupta, DDS

Dr. Gupta graduated from the University of Michigan School of Dentistry in 2004. He happily shares the failures and successes with dental and community groups throughout the country, always ending his presentations with practical, implementable, step-by-step ways to be better. **Courses: Turning Ordinary into Extraordinary, Demineralized and Cortico-What?, I'm Not Quite Healthy, but Not Quite a Cavity**

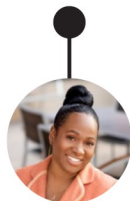
Mary Wolf, MS, LPC-MH, BCC

Mary Wolf is the president of Veritee Partners LLC, a coaching and consulting business designed to promote wellbeing and success for dentists, physicians, executives, and the companies they serve. Mary has been partnering with the SDDA for the last five years in helping develop a culture of wellbeing with in dentistry in South Dakota.

Course: Boundaries

And Many More

- Karen Baker, MS, Director of Dental Pharmacy & Associate Professor Oral Pathology, Radiology & Medicine
- Tracy Palecek, NCC, LPC, QMHP **Courses: TBD**
- Call to Freedom **Course: Hidden in Plain Sight**
- David Harris, CFE, CPA, CMA, CFF, MBA, **Course: External Threats to Your Dental Office**
- Rick Ritt, BS, MA, EMT-Paramedic, **Courses: CPR, Anesthesia ER Management**
- **Exhibitor Hall** - Visit the vendors and earn five clinical-exhibitors and stay for the exhibitor reception with drinks & appetizers.



Dentistry in South Dakota
804 N Euclid; Ste 103
Pierre SD 57501

Classified Ads

Dakota Family Dentistry in Huron, SD is seeking a **registered dental hygienist** to join our team. The ideal candidate should be dedicated to providing excellent patient care with exceptional service. This is an outstanding opportunity to practice in a well-established clinic with a great team in a wonderful community. Benefits include a \$5000 sign-on bonus, student loan repayment for 3 year commitment, competitive pay, 401K with profit-sharing, in-house dental benefit plan, paid sick leave, vacation, dues, licenses, CE, and 6 paid holidays. Visit our website: www.dakotafamilydentistry.org for an application or call 605-352-6999.

Dental Hygienist: Are you a dental hygienist looking to make a difference? Would you like to set your own schedule? Delta Dental of South Dakota's Mobile Program has collaborative supervision opportunities for dental hygienists. These opportunities include both—full time and part-time flexible schedules, including working specific weeks or months out of the year. The dental hygienists will work under collaborative supervision in South Dakota, primarily on the Pine Ridge or Cheyenne River Native American Reservations. The dental hygienists will join a team providing preventive services and oral health education in schools, Head Starts, etc. Extensive travel is required. May be eligible for benefits including health, dental, vision, life/long term disability insurance, paid holidays, vacation/sick leave, 401k, and more. For more information visit www.deltadentalsd.com. Submit a cover letter and resume to: summer.sporrer@deltadentalsd.com. Questions? Contact Zach Parsons at 605-494-2558.

Bridge the Gap

SOUTH DAKOTA OFFERS A HOST OF
DENTAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Check out sddental.org

  **South Dakota**
DENTAL ASSOCIATION



Dentistry in South Dakota

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804 N Euclid, Ste. 103

Pierre SD 57501

Telephone: 605-224-9133

Fax: 605-224-9168

E-Mail: paul.knecht@sddental.org

Website: www.sddental.org

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