



## **Spring 2021 Program Advisory Committee Minutes**

**Program:** Dental Assisting

**Date:** 4/7/21

**Members Present:** Nicole Dresser, Heather Fullerton,  
Tamar Iskenderian

**Program Facilitator:** Nicole Dresser

**Committee Chair:** Stacy Abbatessa \*Filling in for Dottie Vannah who could not make a Wednesday

**Subject:** **Student Enrollment/Class of 2024**

**Discussion:** 22 students, questions about if distancing played a factor in lower enrollment from last year. 21 girls/1 boy, students with learning difficulties

**Subject:** **On Campus Learning Update**

**Discussion:** CTE students were brought back full time 3/18/21. We have one remaining full time remote student who will return to school on 4/14. Whole school is coming back on 4/28/21. Students have been much more responsive to learning since returning to school full time. We are able to get more hands-on work completed.



**Subject: Curriculum Bias/Programmatic Review**

**Discussion:** Still a lot of “white hair guy” dentists dominate the industry. There is a stigma for boys coming into the school to choose “boy shops”. There needs to be a change in the mindset of the parents to increase the numbers of non-trad students There are 3 boys in the UNE class of 2024.

It was recommended to Nick from Dr. Hanlon to become a leader for males in the profession and potentially start a podcast. Dianne Doucette brings forward that GLTS is 100% Spanish in their dental assisting program. All working dental members agree that there is not as much stigma with race in the profession as there is with gender in the profession. The classes at Tufts are becoming more diverse as well as at ENSATS.

**Subject: Senior Portfolio Showcase**

**Discussion:** Scheduled for Friday May 7, 2021. Current industry members were going to check their schedules to see if they can attend. Meeting will be held via Zoom.

**Subject: Employee Outlook/Industry Trends**

**Discussion:** There are almost no dental assistants available looking for work. It was discussed that we were contacted by an oral surgeon, Dr. Shannon who wants to try to change licensure requirements for the state of MA. Dr. Hanlon feels that sometimes it’s the employer and how they treat people versus the lack of people willing to work. The question was brought up that the transition to bigger corporate ownership versus single practitioner owned practices are impacting this lack of



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employees. Dr. Hanlon felt as though the fact that DSO's can offer benefits that private practices cannot help. There seems to be a trend of software shifts for ones that can accommodate "the cloud" versus harddrives

**Subject: Recommendations for Program**

**Discussion:** Agreement between all dental professionals in the meeting that it would be beneficial to obtain a digital scanner for the shop. Greater Lawrence has just purchased one per Dianne Doucette.

**Subject: New Business**

**Discussion:** We realized the need to have a new radiology mannequin so that has been ordered and is scheduled to be delivered in early June.

**The meeting adjourned at (time): 8:00 P.M.**