President-elect Candidates’ Statements

Sandra Carlin Andrieu, Ph.D.

I could not be more excited, more honored, and more humbled by the opportunity to be considered for the position of President-elect of the American Dental Education Association—an association that represents each member of the profession of oral health care education. I am keenly aware that your choice for President-elect must provide leadership in working to achieve the mission of the Association. While demonstrated leadership is clearly a necessary qualification for the position, it is my opinion that the discriminating factor in selecting a President-elect is who best will represent each and all of the members of ADEA. The President of ADEA is the face and the voice of the Association, represents all of ADEA to other organizations, and speaks on behalf of the Board of Directors outside of the Association. As President-elect, my commitment would be to support and communicate the vision, goals, and directions of ADEA as determined by the members through the capable leadership you have elected to represent the Councils, Sections, and Individual Members of the Association.

My engagement in dental education began as a dental hygiene faculty member and became further grounded over the past thirty years as both my faculty and administrative responsibilities became more broad-based. I have been fortunate to have had a diverse set of experiences and ever-increasing responsibility.

I represent all of ADEA. I am a dental hygienist. I worked side by side with members of the oral health care team as a faculty member in a

John N. Williams, D.M.D., M.B.A.

I am honored to be a candidate for 2009 President-elect of the American Dental Education Association (ADEA). I joined ADEA’s predecessor organization (American Association of Dental Schools, AADS) as a part-time faculty member in 1985 and attended my first AADS meeting at the Washington Sheraton Woodley Park. For over 23 years, I have been an active participant in multiple aspects of the Association. I believe my knowledge, experience, and insights into dentistry and dental education—both challenges and opportunities—have prepared me well to assume this national leadership position. Currently, I serve ADEA as Vice President for Deans.

My interest in this position is based on three fundamental issues facing dental education and the dental profession. While not new, they persist, and as an association, we must be diligent to further explore ideas and try new programs to address these persistent challenges. The three national challenges are Leadership Development, Future Financial Resources, and National Oral Health Policy.

National Leadership Development

The graying of the professoriate, ADEA’s own data on current and pending faculty shortages, and the large proportion of permanently unfilled deans’ positions are serious cause for concern. The quality of our nation’s academic dental institutions is at risk if we are not more intentional about equipping the next generation of academic leaders with the knowledge and skills to lead in challenging times, and the times today are very
department that included dental assistants and dental laboratory technologists, and later served as Director of the Program in Dental Hygiene. I appreciate the unique value that the individual professionals who comprise the oral health care team bring to dental education.

Having served as Associate Dean of Academic Affairs at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center (LSUHSC) School of Dentistry for the past fifteen years, I have an understanding of and sincere respect for all components of oral health care education. My desire to gain more knowledge about academic issues nationwide led me to become active in the ADEA Section on Academic Affairs. With pride, I served in each of the officer positions of that Section and was subsequently elected to serve as ADEA Vice President for Sections. As a Vice President, I gained a deeper understanding of the unique impact that members from the various Sections, Councils, and Special Interest Groups have on the direction and goals of the Association. I was fortunate to interact with each Council through their respective Vice Presidents and serve on the ADEA Board of Directors. I have realized the value that inclusiveness, collegiality, and mutual effort bring to the mission of the Association.

As an Academic Dean, I am deeply committed to the dynamic process of dental education. My continued service on the ADEA Commission on Change and Innovation in Dental Education (ADEA CCI) Oversight Committee allows me to work directly with the various external agencies that influence curricula including representatives from the American Dental Association (ADA) Board of Trustees, Division of Education, and Council on Dental Education and Licensure; the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations; and the Commission on Dental Accreditation, as well as other stakeholders.

Currently in my position as Associate Dean at LSUHSC School of Dentistry, I serve on a myriad of school and Health Sciences Center committees, as well with a regional accrediting agency, that requires my clear communication with administrators, faculty, and students of the challenging! We must continue to invest in our future leaders.

My active involvement with the ADEA Leadership Institute for the past three years as a faculty advisor has given me firsthand knowledge of the concerns of our future academic leaders. My experience serving on the ADEA Women’s Affairs Advisory Committee and now as a newly appointed Board liaison to the ADEA Minority Affairs Advisory Committee has expanded my understanding of the critical need for creating more inclusive leadership development opportunities. As President, I would advocate for additional national leadership development programming for deans, women, and minority faculty, as well as students and residents.

Future Financial Resources

All dental schools but especially state-supported dental schools, allied health programs, and residency programs face a challenging sustainable financial future. With ever-shrinking state budgets, our Association needs to be vigilant in assisting all member programs and schools to consider best practices in financial management. The best practices would include the acquisition of new dollars not just from tuition but from clinical operations, fundraising, and public-private partnerships. I am concerned that the easy way to address budget shortfalls is to raise tuition for our students. The growing debt burden diminishes students from disadvantaged backgrounds from applying to dental school, hampers our graduates, and limits their options to participate in the full spectrum of career options including dental academics. ADEA, as the voice of dental education, needs to start the conversation to explore new models of tuition policy, enhance clinical and research management, and enrich fundraising programs to establish models of “best practices” to be shared with our members.

National Oral Health Policy

Access to care has been a topic for several years. With the completion of the U.S. presidential election, we will see presidential and
programs in dentistry, dental hygiene, dental laboratory technology, and advanced dental education. You, representing all of ADEA, successfully communicate your interests to the ADEA Board of Directors through your very capable and well-respected elected Vice Presidents. As President-elect, I would support the efforts of the ADEA Board of Directors. I bring high energy and a positive spirit to build on the vision and success of ADEA CCI initiatives. I look forward to building momentum to incorporate the more current concept of interprofessional education as we evolve the future of oral health care education.

I believe that I have the leadership background to serve as President-elect of ADEA. Again, I believe the discriminating factor in selecting the next President-elect is rooted in the “person” you feel best represents all of ADEA. I believe that I have those critical personal qualities and the professional experience that reflects our members. I appreciate your consideration of my interest in serving as President-elect of ADEA.

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congressional leadership step up to substantively address this issue. Dentistry and dental education must be in the conversation. I have served on the ADEA Legislative Advisory Committee, been an active legislative advocate, done many Hill visits, and served for two years as a Legislative Analyst for the Kentucky Legislative Research Commission prior to entering dental school in 1976. ADEA has an outstanding public policy staff, and I would be extremely proactive working with them to advocate for oral health.

As further background, I have had extensive involvement in organized dentistry at the state and national level as well as with previous positions with ADEA (AADS) serving as Vice President for Sections in the 1990s. I have been an active site visitor for CODA, having chaired eight comprehensive site visits. I have experience raising money, directing curriculum for D.D.S./D.M.D., allied, and advanced education programs, and directing complex academic dental organizations as dean. In addition, I had the privilege to serve as Assistant University Provost early in my career at Louisville. I am completing my tenth year as a dental dean, having served six and a half years at the University of Louisville and currently serving as Dean at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

I believe I present a comprehensive set of relevant knowledge, skills, and experience to lead our premier national dental education association. I would welcome the opportunity to serve as your ADEA President-elect. Thank you for your support.