The American Dental Education Association (ADEA) has 20,000 members and represents all 76 dental schools in the United States and Canada. ADEA also represents more than 1,000 allied and advanced dental education programs and over 60 corporate members.

With headquarters in Washington, DC, ADEA’s staff of 70 works to represent and serve the needs of academic dentistry in many key areas, including:

- **Federal advocacy efforts** addressing legislation and regulations that impact dental education, such as Title VII health professions and student loan programs; funding for the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, including grants and scholarships for academic dental institutions; and Department of Education-related funding for issues of interest, including the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program.

- **Professional and leadership development programming** for deans, program directors, and dental and allied dental faculty, offering meetings, scholarships and awards, workshops, eLearning opportunities, and the ADEA Annual Session & Exhibition, which brings more than 2,500 dental education colleagues together for networking and collaborative learning.

- **Guidance, training and tools to foster inclusive excellence** in dental education. ADEA strives to ensure that access to education, cultural competence and the promotion of health equity are all integral parts of dental education, through its work in access, diversity and inclusion. Leaders who prioritize access, diversity and inclusion are realigning their fundamental values to create a culture of inclusion at all levels—top-down, bottom-up and peer-to-peer.

- **Centralized application services**: ADEA AADSAS® (ADEA Associated American Dental Schools Application Service), ADEA CAAPID® (ADEA Centralized Application for Advanced Placement for International Dentists), ADEA DHCAS® (ADEA Dental Hygiene Centralized Application Service) and ADEA PASS® (ADEA Postdoctoral Application Support Service).

  - These four ADEA centralized application services combined process over 180,000 applications annually on behalf of our members, alleviating the need for dental school or advanced or allied program-based staff to manage this task—and allowing members to access their respective data and reports online at any time.

In the 2018 Omnibus Appropriations bill, funding for the following programs either met the levels requested, or exceeded them: Oral Health Training Programs, Area Health Education Centers, Health Career Opportunity Program, Ryan White Dental Reimbursement Program and overall NIDCR support.
Recruitment activities to ensure the continued quality and diversity of applicants to the dental professions, including the ADEA GoDental® newsletter, which reaches over 30,000 opt-in students; in-person recruitment fairs; webinars and other online events for prospective students, advisors and parents; and target audience data collection and analysis.

Critical policy information and initiatives to support academic dental institutions in planning and decision-making, including policy briefs, white papers, association reports and focused programming; and leadership in collaborative efforts to address major national issues, including licensure, the opioid epidemic and clinician well-being.

Real-time state policy monitoring, with online access for members to legislative and regulatory actions relevant to their schools and programs.

Unique profession-centric publications, including the peer-reviewed Journal of Dental Education; online ADEA Dental School Explorer®, where prospective dental students can search schools based on preferred criteria; Bulletin of Dental Education; Charting Progress; and the ADEA Official Guide to Dental Schools®, which profiles all 76 North American schools and provides information about applying to dental school.

Educational research and analysis, including findings of an annual faculty salary survey, graduating senior survey and applicant data from ADEA’s centralized application services (ADEA AADSAS, ADEA CAAPID, ADEA DHCAS and ADEA PASS).

Representation by the ADEA President and CEO on national higher education and health professions leadership bodies, including the Washington Higher Education Secretariat, Interprofessional Education Collaborative and Federation of Associations of Schools of the Health Professions.

Each year, ADEA collects data on topics of interest to dental school deans, program directors, faculty, students, residents and fellows. The ADEA Snapshot of Dental Education presents findings on discrete subject areas to help ADEA members and stakeholders better understand the academic dental profession and its role in health and health care.

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