

AMERICAN DENTAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

2025 ADEA Annual Report

ADEA | THE VOICE OF
DENTAL EDUCATION



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Message from the President and CEO



The American Dental Education Association (ADEA) continued to advance its mission in 2025 by strengthening the foundation of oral health education while preparing the profession for a rapidly evolving future. Guided by our strategic priorities—to heighten awareness of pathways to oral health careers, attract and prepare the next generation of educators and leaders, re-envision the model for oral health education and position ADEA to support its members—we made meaningful progress across the oral health education community in the United States, Canada and around the world.

One of the year's most notable achievements was ADEA's continued leadership on the global stage. In concert with our international colleagues, ADEA participated in historic initiatives to promote solid dental education practices beyond U.S. and Canadian borders. Among these milestones was participation in the inaugural gathering of African dental education leaders, which led to the creation of a continent-wide dental education association—an important step toward strengthening the oral health education infrastructure globally.

But closer to home, ADEA continues our focus of expanding opportunities for students and aspiring oral health professionals. Hundreds of students were introduced to careers in dentistry and related fields through programs such as the ADEA Bridging Pathways to Oral Health Careers initiative (reaching more than 1,260 students in 2025) and the Summer Health Professions Education Program (SHPEP), which saw a 16% increase in applications from the year prior. Recruitment and engagement efforts—from ADEA GoDental events and HOSA collaborations to the virtual Road to Residency and ADEA CAAPID® (ADEA Centralized Application for Advanced Placement for International Dentists) fairs—connected more than 4,000 learners with mentors, schools and professional pathways.

Preparing the next generation of educators and leaders remained central to our work. In 2025, ADEA continued to deliver high-impact leadership development programs, including the ADEA Leadership Institute, the ADEA Allied Dental Faculty Leadership Development Program and the ADEA Council of Deans Fellowship Program. We also advanced new initiatives designed to strengthen the academic workforce, including the ADEA-ADA From Practice to Professor program, which supports clinicians transitioning from practice to teaching roles.

At the same time, ADEA continued to re-envision the future of oral health education. Our research and data initiatives including the expanded *ADEA Trends in Dental Education* report, new analyses of allied dental education and the successful launch of the ADEA Data Portal, which provides members with critical insights and benchmarking tools to guide decision-making, with nearly 1000 users as of March 2026 and the work of the ADEA Task Force on Envisioning and Transforming the Future of Oral Health and Education (TF-ETFOHE). The fiscal year 2025 *ADEA Dental School Faculty Salary and Demographic Census* achieved an unprecedented 95% participation rate. ADEA also began developing principles to guide the integration of artificial intelligence in oral health education, ensuring that innovation is aligned with ethical, educational and clinical priorities.

Finally, ADEA strengthened its role as a trusted advocate and resource for the oral health education community. Throughout the year, we engaged policymakers on issues affecting the oral health workforce, including the role of internationally trained faculty and immigration policy. We also enhanced member engagement through the launch of a new ADEA Connect platform and expanded digital learning opportunities through ADEA eLearn.

The data and achievements highlighted in this report reflect the dedication of ADEA members, volunteers, staff and partners who share a commitment to improving oral health through education, research and leadership. **Together, we are shaping a stronger, more innovative and more accessible future for oral health education and the communities we serve.**

Karen P. West, D.M.D., M.P.H.
President and CEO
American Dental Education Association

ADEA Strategic Directions 2024–2027

OUR MISSION: To develop an inclusive, future-ready oral health workforce prepared to improve the health of all people and communities through leadership, education and collaboration.



HEIGHTEN KNOWLEDGE AND AWARENESS of pathways to the oral health professions.



ATTRACT AND PREPARE the next cadre of faculty, staff and leaders for oral health education.



RE-ENVISION the model for oral health education.



POSITION ADEA to support its mission and members.

Heighten knowledge and awareness of pathways to the oral health professions.



ADEA continues to expand awareness of and access to oral health education by strengthening connections with prospective students and those beyond the immediate ADEA community. Through targeted outreach and collaborations, nationally and abroad, ADEA has worked to ensure that learners from varied backgrounds better understand career opportunities and fundamental principles of the oral health professions. Our efforts in 2025 **focused on increasing visibility, fostering early engagement and helping to build a more informed future and current workforce.**

ADEA Champions Global Oral Health and Creation of Dental Health Association in Africa

Dr. Karen West, ADEA President and CEO; Dr. Todd Ester, Chair of the ADEA Board of Directors; and Dr. Marsha Pyle, ADEA Senior Chief, Knowledge, Engagement and Development, joined leaders from the Association for Dental Education in Europe (ADEE), FDI: the World Dental Federation and Prof. Ihsane Ben Yahya, Dean of Mohammed VI School of Dentistry in Casablanca, Morocco, for the **first continent of Africa conference on dental education** in which 24 countries were in attendance. The historic meeting highlighted the signing of a Declaration of Intent to create a continent-wide dental education association. Despite the extreme variation in size, and resources within areas of Africa, the group later passed their incorporating articles and elected a board of directors, with ADEA, ADEE and FDI to serve as advisors.



Reaching Global Audiences

During the 60th Annual Meeting of the Brazilian Association of Dental Education (ABENO), Dr. Marsha Pyle, ADEA Senior Chief, Knowledge, Engagement and Development, and Dr. Susan H. Kass, Immediate Past Chair of the ADEA Board of Directors, participated in a conference session on internationalization of programs. Billed as the premier event for dental education in Brazil, ABENO 2025 **focused on innovation, connections and the future of dental training.**

In June, Drs. West and Pyle participated in an ADEE- and ADEA- sponsored event at the International Association of Dental Research (IADR) meeting in Barcelona, Spain, that continued the work to support action to advance the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Oral Health Action Plan. Twenty-five global oral health leaders attended the meeting that discussed two of the four themes identified for dental education's activities. The participants from six continents proposed key activities to advance research and interprofessional education. This work continued in August at the Association for Dental Education in Europe (ADEE) Annual Meeting in Dublin, Ireland. The Dublin meeting focused on prioritizing activities in the themes of Research and Interprofessional Education and discussed curriculum principles to include in the educational response to WHO Action Plan. Dr. Karen West, ADEA President and CEO; Dr. Todd Ester, Chair of the ADEA Board of Directors; and Dr. Kass participated in the WHO session at the ADEE meeting.

ADEA Released a Report on the 2024 Entering Class of U.S. Predoctoral Dental School Applicants and First-time, First-year Enrollees

ADEA published the annual report U.S. Dental School Applicants and Enrollees, 2024 Entering Class in February 2025. The report analyzes data from the ADEA AADSAS® (ADEA Associated American Dental Schools Application Service) and Texas Medical & Dental Schools Application Service (TMDSAS). The spreadsheet report provides a comprehensive view of predoctoral dental applicants and first-time, first-year enrollees in the 2024 U.S. Entering Class. Users can also access trend data for applicants and first-time, first-year enrollees for 25 years between 2000 and 2024.



The Excel-based report and interactive charts are freely available on the [ADEA Research and Data webpage](#).

ADEA COSRF Holds Informational Chapter Leader Town Hall

The ADEA Chapter Leader Town Hall, hosted by the ADEA Council of Students, Residents and Fellows (COSRF), offered student leaders the opportunity to learn about the resources and support ADEA provides to Chapters. The most recent town hall took place virtually on Sept. 9, 2025, with **43 participants**. Participants received updates about the new registration process, chapter benefits and financial resources.

2025 ADEA Road to Residency Held Virtually

This virtual event was held on Oct. 25, 2025 and welcomed **387 live student attendees**. Led by Antanious White, Ph.D., ADEA Senior Director of Student Engagement and Success, and developed in collaboration with Office of Educational Services staff, Jessica O'Keefe, M.Ed., ADEA Senior Director

of Enrollment Technology & Engagement, Elizabeth Johnson, M.S., Director of Recruitment for ADEA Application Services and Yolanda Jones, Director of Advanced Dental Education Application Service, the event connected students with representatives from every dental specialty, ADEA PASS® (ADEA Postdoctoral Application Support Service) and the MATCH program.

This year's new Virtual GoAdvancedED Expo **highlighted all 12 dental specialties and three advanced allied dental programs through interactive virtual booths**. Live lounges further supported real-time discussion, Q&A and peer-to-peer engagement, offering students meaningful insight into the advanced education application process and diverse oral health careers.

ADEA Launches Pulse of Progress (POP) Series

The ADEA Pulse of Progress (POP) Series consists of four webinars that spotlight the contributions, challenges and achievements of voices historically overlooked in oral health. The inaugural session, geared toward students, *From Startup to Scholarship: Entrepreneurial Journeys in Dentistry*, took place on Sept. 30, 2025, with **170 attendees**. Four oral health professionals shared their entrepreneurial paths, emphasizing how being members of historically underrepresented groups in their professions shaped their experiences. Attendees learned about strategies for applying entrepreneurial skills, including financial management, innovation and leadership.

ADEA Academic Dental Careers Fellowship Program

Forty-seven schools participated in the 2025–2026 ADEA Academic Dental Careers Fellowship Program (ADCFP), led by Shelvia English, Ph.D., ADEA Vice President for Access, Success and Impact (ASI). The ASI team is planning an in-person ADCFP Liaison & Mentor Networking Event and the second annual Joint COSRF & ADCFP reception at the 2026 ADEA Annual Session & Exhibition to **further highlight and celebrate the program's 20-year success**.

ADEA Bridging Pathways to Oral Health Careers Program to Expand

Funded by the Delta Dental Future Workforce Fund, the ADEA Bridging Pathways to Oral Health Careers Program promotes oral health careers among students ages 14–18 through partnerships with 13 area health education centers (AHECs). More than 1,260 students participated in 2025. A new Delta Dental grant will expand the program in 2026 to 26 AHECs and **over 1,900 students**.



A new Delta Dental Future Workforce Fund grant will **expand** the ADEA Bridging Pathways to Oral Health Careers Program in 2026 from **13 to 26 participating Area Health Education Centers**.

ADEA Holds 2025 ADEA CAAPID Virtual Fair

The 2025 ADEA CAAPID Virtual Fair, the go-to resource for internationally educated dentists interested in practicing dentistry in the United States, took place on Nov. 18, 2025, with **2,673**

registrants and 1,526 student attendees participating. The three-hour event included two 30-minute live sessions, two on-demand presentations and two hours of exclusive dental school and ADEA CAAPID chat time for attendees. As a part of the 2025 ADEA CAAPID Virtual Fair, a bonus webinar was hosted on Nov. 19, 2025, entitled, “Navigating the Road to Advanced Standing – Insights from Those Who Made It!” This 90-minute session was presented by representatives from the ADEA SIG on Internationally Educated Oral Health Professionals.

Summer Health Professions Education Program (SHPEP)

The application cycle for the summer 2025 programs ran from Nov. 1, 2024, to Feb. 5, 2025, for the eleven program sites. In total, **3,416 complete applications were received, marking a 16% increase from 2024 and resembling pre-COVID pandemic totals.** Rutgers University and Western University of Health Sciences, which accepted second- and third-year students, experienced rises in their application totals of 24% and 85%, respectively. For the dental pathway, there were **23% more applicants** (n=675) compared to 2024 and increases in the proportion of applicants who self-identified as male, Black/African American, Latino, American Indian/Alaska Native or a Pell Grant recipient.

The 6-week programs took place in June and July 2025, with two held fully in person and nine with a hybrid structure. Select team members from the National Program Office (NPO), National Advisory Committee (NAC), and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) conducted virtual and in-person site visits to hear from site leaders and program participants.

Four program alumni were selected for the Rubens J. Pamies, M.D. Opportunity Fund in the amount of \$500 each. The recipients were:

- **Bo James Hwang**, a post-baccalaureate student at the University of California, Santa Cruz, and a former Summer Medical and Dental Education Program (SMDEP) medicine pathway participant at the University of Washington in 2014,
- **Rebecca Kiflom**, a 2022 Columbia University graduate, who participated in the SHPEP medicine pathway at the University of California, Los Angeles in 2019,
- **Jailee Mendo**, a 2023 New York University graduate, who participated in the SHPEP dental pathway at Columbia University in 2021, and
- **Alma Rincongallardo**, a 2022 University of California, Los Angeles, graduate, who participated in the SHPEP public health pathway at the University of Washington in 2019.

The 2025 Grantee Meeting was held virtually over two days in October. The agenda included presentations on health communication and advocacy, the site close-out process, a town hall, ideation discussions, and networking opportunities. Beginning in summer 2026, the University of Alabama at Birmingham will no longer serve as a program site.

ADEA GoDental Team Hosted the Largest Recruitment Event to Date

The 2025 ADEA GoDental Recruitment Event took place on Saturday, March 8, 2025, in National Harbor, MD. With nearly 2,400 registered attendees, **950 students** in attendance and **73 exhibitors on site**, it proved to be the largest ADEA GoDental Recruitment Event to date. The day included educational sessions in the morning followed by a busy fair in the afternoon.

ADEA GoDental Recruitment Event 2025 featured **2,400 registered attendees**, **950 students** in attendance and **73 exhibitors**.



ADEA GoDental Team Host a Series of Dental School Recruitment Events

The ADEA GoDental recruitment team connected the Indiana University School of Dentistry (IUSD) with Indiana HOSA to sponsor a table at the Indiana HOSA fall conference on Oct. 24, 2025. ADEA provided giveaway items and coordinated to have representatives from IUSD attend to talk about the profession. The group engaged **75+ students and advisors during the one-day event**.

The ADEA recruitment team also hosted its second ADEA GoDental: Jumpstart! Southern Regional in-person event on Aug. 23, 2025, at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Adams School of Dentistry. The event featured nine dental schools within the region, with admissions officers and current students providing keynotes, breakout sessions, and hands-on activities in the SIM Lab. The recruitment team later hosted its third ADEA GoDental: Jumpstart!

Western Region in-person event Nov. 8, 2025, at the University of Colorado School of Dental Medicine. The event featured eight dental schools within the region, a keynote presenter and admissions officers and current students hosting breakout sessions, school-specific presentations, a dental school tour and a hands-on activity in the dental school sim lab.

The ADEA recruitment staff collaborated with American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) staff to jointly host a webinar for HOSA members (students and advisors). The webinar on Nov. 13, 2025, entitled, "From Z to A: Navigating the Changing Expectations of Future Health Professionals," **attracted 160 live attendees**.



Attract and prepare the next cadre of faculty, staff and leaders for oral health education.



Sustaining excellence in oral health education requires a strong and prepared community of educators and institutional leaders. In 2025, ADEA advanced initiatives designed to cultivate the next generation of faculty, staff and leaders by expanding professional development opportunities, strengthening leadership channels and supporting career pathways in academic dentistry. These efforts reinforce ADEA's **commitment to equipping educators with the skills, mentorship and support needed to lead and innovate in oral health education.**

Conducted the FY 2025 ADEA Dental School Faculty Salary and Demographic Census

Each year, ADEA collects data from accredited U.S. dental schools on faculty demographics, compensation, position characteristics and lost and vacant faculty positions. The fiscal year (FY) 2025 ADEA Faculty Census stayed open between Sept. 25 – Dec. 5, 2025. As Dec. 2, 2025. Under the project leadership of Dr. Shiyao Liu, Senior Director of Higher Education Research, 73 of the 77 accredited U.S. dental schools (accredited as of September 2025) submitted their data, for a **95% response rate**. The reports based on this data allow dental school leadership to assess trends in dental education, compare their school's data against national and other benchmarks and plan for the future. U.S. dental school deans will be able to access the individualized faculty compensation school reports in March 2026 in the ADEA Data Portal at dataportal.adea.org. ADEA is also preparing faculty trends reports, comparing FY 2019 to FY 2025, to be released in May 2026.



Ninety-five percent (95%) of U.S. dental schools participated in the FY 2025 ADEA Dental Faculty Salary and Demographic Census.

ADEA Released the Allied Dental 2024: An Analysis of the Results of the 2024 ADEA Survey of Allied Dental Program Directors in the United States

In collaboration with the ADEA Office of Learning, Dr. Shiyao Liu, Senior Director of Higher Education Research, published the Allied Dental 2024: An Analysis of the Results of the 2024 ADEA Survey of Allied Dental Program Directors in the United States in June 2025. The report analyzes data from the 2024 ADEA Survey of U.S. Allied Dental Program Directors. This biennial, spreadsheet-style report reflects the characteristics of the **64% (367) of accredited allied dental education programs in the United States** that responded to the 2024 ADEA Survey of U.S. Allied Dental Program Directors. The 35 tables in the report provide a comprehensive overview of allied dental programs, program directors and faculty during the 2023–24 academic year.



The Excel-based report is freely available on the [ADEA Research and Data webpage](#).

ADEA Selects Dr. Ariel Snell as 2025 Enid A. Neidle Scholar



Ariel Snell, D.M.D., a faculty member at the NYU Langone Health Advanced Education in Pediatric Dentistry Program at Chesapeake Health Care in Princess Anne, MD, was the 2025 Enid A. Neidle Scholar. She received her D.M.D. at the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine and completed her Pediatric Dentistry residency at Howard University College of Dentistry. Before joining Chesapeake Health Care, Dr. Snell was a dentist at Adventure Dental and Orthodontics in Baltimore, MD.

The ADEA Enid A. Neidle Scholar Program was updated in the summer of 2025 to offer a more flexible experience and renamed from “Scholar-in-Residence” to “Scholar Program” to reflect its hybrid format. Key changes include a **revised research summary focusing on methodology and institutional impact, and updated eligibility criteria for all full-time faculty**.

In September 2025, ADEA hosted Dr. Snell, for an in-person visit at the ADEA headquarters. Her visit featured leadership sessions, research workshops, discussions on study design and IRB navigation and engagement with national experts in dental public health and research.

ADEA-ADA From Practice to Professor (P2P) Preps for Launch

This faculty development project was envisioned by Dr. Karen P. West, ADEA President and CEO, to address learning for new academicians coming from private practice to academia to teach for the first time. Primarily aimed at dentists and allied dental professionals who have been in practice for some time, the educational modules can also be used by novice practitioners who have an interest in teaching.

ADEA partnered with the American Dental Association (ADA) on this project with a Steering Committee consisting of three ADEA members and three ADA members. Materials were created by volunteer ADEA members in 2023–2024 who responded to a call for this project.

ADEA is reviewing the presentations, with the expectation of further refinement of the materials in the coming year. Materials will be housed on ADEA's eLearn platform and additional materials will be developed on a rolling basis.



ADEA Holds 2025 Fall Meetings Professional Development Workshop

The 2025 ADEA Fall Meetings Professional Development Workshop was held in Colorado Springs, CO, on Oct. 15, 2025. The theme, Resilience in Action: Sustainable Strategies for Oral Health Educators, provided over **190 attendees** with strategies and tips to further a humanistic environment in academic dentistry. There were several speakers with backgrounds in higher education, belonging, business and oral health education. Keynote speakers included Dr. Beverly Tatum, President Emerita of Spelman College and Author, Dr. Domonic Rollins of Rollins Consulting and Dr. Randal Pinkett, CEO of BCT Partners. The sessions focused on the importance of intentionally incorporating strategies and practices centered on community, communication, and data to advance a humanistic environment across dental education. The Professional Development Workshop concluded with a poster reception, with **39 proposal submissions and 31 posters presented**.

ADEA Conducts 2025 Leadership Essentials for Allied Dental Educators (LEADE)

The 2025 ADEA Summer LEADE program, in its ninth year, was another success, ending July 3, 2025. The final cohort included **14 participants**. Eleven participants' primary discipline was dental hygiene, and three participants' primary discipline was dental assisting.

ADEA Holds 2025 Allied Dental Program Directors' Conference (ADPDC)

ADEA held its annual 2025 Allied Dental Program Directors' Conference June 7–10, 2025, in Coronado, CA. This year's theme, Navigating the New Era, included topics such as artificial intelligence, navigating legal issues, allied dental education in Europe and communication tools for dealing with difficult situations. The 2025 ADPDC received a **Net Promotor Score of 85%**.

ADEA Implements Digital Event Strategy to Support Strategic Direction

Between May and August 2025, progress was made on ADEA's digital engagement initiatives, advancing the organization's goal of expanding professional development access and aligning with strategic priorities. For example, ADEA successfully delivered three live Advocacy and Government Relations webinars (Series 1 completed June 18, 2025; Series 2 completed Aug. 7, 2025; and Series 3 completed Nov. 11, 2025) featuring expert speakers. They were livestreamed and uploaded to YouTube for ongoing access. **The sessions supported leadership development and industry trend awareness for ADEA members.**

ADEA Plans Allied Dental New Program Directors' Academy

Following an extensive development process, the new ADEA Allied Dental New Program Directors' Academy will launch in June 2026 with its inaugural class graduating in June 2027. Designed specifically for allied dental program directors in their first three years of the role, this year-long, three-phase leadership development program offers a comprehensive pathway to academic program and administrative excellence. New program directors will build foundational leadership skills through an intensive workshop, engage with peers and experienced mentors during the ADEA Allied Dental Program Directors' Conference and **advance their leadership through ongoing mentorship and collaborative group projects in-person and online.**

ADEA Inducts 2026–27 Fellows to ADEA Council of Deans Fellowship Program

The ADEA Council of Deans Fellowship Program (ADEA CDF) creates a pathway for leaders to develop knowledge and skills to assume roles as dental school deans and other senior university leadership positions. Module II takes place at the Deans Conference and allows ADEA CDF Fellows to network with deans and other academic leaders, as they also take a **deep dive into strategic and financial planning.**

The Program Director is Dr. Steve Friedrichsen. Coaches are Drs. Ana López and John Williams, with a new coach, Dr. Lois Nora, joining in April 2026. Staff members are Drs. Marsha Pyle and Sherin Tooks for the 2026–27 Fellows class. The 2026–27 Fellows have been selected, and their names and bios were announced in the February 2026 *Bulletin of Dental Education*. A complete program review, with input from Fellows, Site Visit Deans, Sponsoring Deans and Coaches will be completed in 2026.

ADEA Holds 2025 ADEA Deans' Conference

ADEA held its 2025 ADEA Deans' Conference on Nov. 8–10, 2025, in Chicago, IL. As one of ADEA's flagship leadership meetings, the Deans' Conference is where dental school deans and executive leaders gather to discuss critical issues facing the dental education community. Along with ample joint networking events and key sessions throughout the conference, the conference this year included select deans-only sessions, the ADEA New Deans' Workshop and ADEA Council of Deans Business Meetings. Registration was open to all dental deans and their second faculty guests. Deans and seconds registration for **the 2025 meeting paced 8% ahead of 2024 numbers and 19% ahead of 2023.**



ADEA Celebrates 2025–26 Leadership Institute Graduates; Welcomes 2026–27 Cohorts

Since the inaugural class in 1999, the ADEA Leadership Institute has been developing the most promising individuals at academic institutions to become future leaders in dental, allied dental and higher education. The 2025–26 cohort Phases I-III have been completed. The 2025–26 cohort will complete their program at Phase IV at the 2026 ADEA Annual Session & Exhibition. The 2026–27 cohort has **28 participants** who will begin Orientation at the 2026 ADEA Annual Session & Exhibition.

ADEA Holds the 2025 ADEA Allied Dental Faculty Leadership Development Program

On Aug. 6–9, 2025, in Washington, DC, ADEA held the 2025 ADEA Allied Dental Faculty Leadership Development Program (ADEA ADFLDP). ADEA ADFLDP is ADEA's premier leadership program designed to inspire and develop future allied dental education leaders. The only program of its kind, ADEA ADFLDP provides leadership development from an allied dental perspective for mid-career faculty and program directors.

The program was successful and had **23 participants**. Content on advocacy, artificial intelligence and embracing and supporting Gen Z was added to the program, which is offered every other year, on odd years.

ADEA eLearn Offers More Webinars and Micro-credentialing Program Continues to Grow

ADEA eLearn continues to provide virtual learning experiences to members and nonmembers through webinars on topics such as prevention and care of temporomandibular disorders, trauma-informed patient care, innovations in dentistry and bridging generational gaps. ADEA eLearn recently launched a new webinar request process to help streamline the webinar planning process and provide members, most notably Sections and SIGs, with an avenue to share knowledge and resources with their colleagues.

From January 2025 through December 3, 2025, across all available Continuing Education (CE) activities on the eLearn website, there have been 2,454.5 CEs distributed to **1,065 unique individuals**.

The micro-credentialing program continues to grow, with another badge awarded for the "Developing a Teaching Philosophy" micro-credential. Four badges have been awarded since October 2024.

Across all ADEA's learning programs, more than 309.25 CE activities provided CE credit to over **1,631 ADEA members**.



In 2025, ADEA's learning programs provided CE credits to **over 1,631 ADEA members**.

ADEA Council Finalizes Domains of Competence Document

The Council of Faculties (COF) Domains of Competence (DOC) workgroup finalized the *Domains of Competence for the New General Dentist* document. Since December 2023, COF DOC workgroup **members have worked diligently to identify the roles of the dentist, create domains and develop supporting competencies.** Through the iterative Delphi process, the workgroup engaged with members of all Councils through the Joint Council Administrative Board meetings, Annual Session & Exhibition educational sessions, Fall Meetings joint programming and various surveys. COF voted to submit the *Domains of Competence for the New General Dentist* to the ADEA Board of Directors as a resolution for the 2026 ADEA House of Delegates.



ADEA Holds ADEA Strategic Capacity Building Institute

The 2025 ADEA Strategic Capacity Building Institute, held on Aug. 5–6, 2025, provided representatives from U.S. and Canadian dental schools and allied dental programs with tools that support a humanistic educational environment. Participants assessed and enhanced their current initiatives by aligning with the findings from the *2022 ADEA Climate Study* and Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) accreditation standards. The Institute **provided access to actionable strategies and curated resources to support institutional efforts on campus climate.** It featured speakers from institutions across the country, as well as a keynote presentation by Art Coleman of EducationCounsel.



Re-envision the model for oral health education.



As oral health care and health systems continue to evolve, ADEA remains committed to helping the academic dental community rethink and modernize educational models. In 2025, our work supported innovation in curriculum design, interprofessional collaboration, emerging technologies and new approaches to teaching and learning. By convening thought leaders, sharing best practices and advancing research and dialogue, ADEA is helping shape educational models that **better prepare graduates for the changing needs of patients, communities and the broader health care system.**

ADEA Released a Re-envisioned 2024–25 ADEA Trends in Dental Education Report

ADEA releases the “Trends in Dental Education” report annually, which presents findings on a variety of subjects to help the ADEA membership and related stakeholders better understand the academic dental profession and its role in oral health and health care.

The expanded and reorganized 2024–25 edition showcases trends in dental education programs, applicants to and matriculants in different types of dental education programs, faculty in dental schools and allied dental education programs, and macro challenges facing academic dentistry.



The PDF and interactive version of the report (including the charts and data) can be accessed at [ADEA.org/ADEATrends](https://www.a-dea.org/ADEATrends).

ADEA 2026 ADEA Compendium of Curriculum Guidelines for Allied Dental Education Programs Nears Completion

The 10-year revision for the *ADEA Compendium of Curriculum Guidelines for Allied Dental Education Programs* was approved by the ADEA Board of Directors at their January 2026 meeting. This document is the most used ADEA resource by allied dental faculty and program directors. The revisions of the **300+ page resource** were completed by **51 volunteer allied dental faculty members** over a period of 18 months. The volunteer group worked in teams based on their teaching expertise and course topics; and were charged with being visionary, inclusive, and including AI and other technology. The Compendium will be published in 2026.

ADEA Developed New Research on Graduating Allied Dental Students

In collaboration with the ADEA Office of Learning, Dr. Pradeep Singh, Higher Education Research Director produced a new analysis based on the data from the inaugural *ADEA 2024 Survey of Graduating Allied Dental Students*. The survey yielded a **21% response rate among the 12,920 graduating allied dental students surveyed**. The analysis looked at key factors related to graduating students such as their motivations to pursue a degree in allied dental education, preparedness to practice, inter- and intra-professional education experiences, funding sources for their degree, education debt, professional plans upon graduation and certifications.



The Excel-based report and interactive graphics are freely available on the [ADEA Research and Data webpage](#).

The association report was published in the March 2025 edition of JDE. The 2026 edition is scheduled to launch in March 2026.

ADEA Launches an ADEA Innovation Series

ADEA has started a new feature series highlighting oral health schools and programs that are using various innovative practices and technologies. The ADEA research team led the launch of this project, in partnership with the Department of Communication and Marketing and Department of Innovation, Clinical Education and Public Health colleagues.

The first article in this series, **“Centralized Call Centers at Dental School Clinics Reduce Inefficiency While Improving Patient and Student Experience,”** was published in May 2025. It discussed how dental school clinics at University of Michigan School of Dentistry and University of California, San Francisco, School of Dentistry innovated a practice management system by creating centralized call centers that



have not only decreased call-waiting times and abandonment rates but also **increased the overall number of patients seeking treatment and improved both the patient and student experience.** The second article, focused on how AI applications are assisting dental schools in **streamlining and standardizing time-consuming processes** was released in January 2026.

Find the **ADEA Innovation Series** at adea.org/news
#innovation-article-series



ADEA Participates in the Dental Assisting National Board's Artificial Intelligence (AI) Summit

As artificial intelligence's (AI's) impact and reach expands, the Dental Assisting National Board convened a summit to **explore future applications of AI across dentistry and to understand the impact AI could have on the dental assistant role.** Ms. Rebecca Stolberg, ADEA Senior Vice President, Allied Dental Education and Faculty Development, attended the invitation-only event featuring dynamic discussions and a panel session with executives from Bola AI, Heartland Dental, Overjet, PDS Health and Viva AI. Attendees included dental team members, educators, association and industry leaders, consultants and strategists. One of the Summit's key themes was that dental assistants need to be part of the conversation and training when practices and clinics incorporate AI tools.

ADEA Creates Project Team to Spearhead ADEA AI Principles for Oral Health Education (ADEA AI-POHE)

As part of a new and evolving initiative, the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) is currently forming a Project Team to develop the *ADEA AI Principles for Oral Health Education (ADEA AI-POHE)*, focusing on the implications of artificial intelligence in education, clinical practice and patient care. A project team is being formed that will convene to **identify key topics and resources for inclusion** in the ADEA AI-POHE. The project team anticipates submitting the ADEA AI-POHE to the ADEA House of Delegates at the 2027 ADEA Annual Session & Exhibition. The project team will be supported by ADEA staff, Dr. Gulsun Gul, ADEA Chief of Innovation, Clinical Education and Public Health (lead), and Dr. Sherin Took, ADEA Senior Chief of Knowledge, Engagement and Development.

2025 ADEA Annual Session & Exhibition Held



ADEA held the 2025 ADEA Annual Session & Exhibition, March 8–11, 2025, at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center in National Harbor, MD. The theme of the 2025 ADEA Annual Session & Exhibition was "Be Inspired, Empower Tomorrow," **emphasizing the dual role of inspiration and empowerment in shaping the future of dental education and the profession.** The theme resonated throughout the conference's structure—from keynote speeches to breakout sessions and hands-on exhibits—creating a forward-looking, community-building environment for the dental education community. Final registration for the 2025 ADEA Annual Session & Exhibition was 3,371, **up 30%** from the 2024 Annual Session & Exhibition in New Orleans, LA.

Position ADEA to support its mission and members.



To effectively serve the oral health education community, ADEA must remain a robust, responsive and forward-looking organization. Throughout 2025, we strengthened our capacity to support members through new programs and platforms, governance upgrades and advocacy and outreach efforts that reinforce our mission. By investing in organizational sustainability, member engagement and data-driven decision-making, **ADEA continues to position itself as a trusted leader and indispensable resource for the institutions and individuals shaping the future of oral health education.**

ADEA Launches the ADEA Data Portal: A Member-only Data Hub

On Oct. 7, 2025, ADEA unveiled the **ADEA Data Portal**, a brand-new resource developed in collaboration with ADEA members, for ADEA members. The data hub delivers interactive dashboards and exclusive insights about U.S. and Canadian oral health education trends and benchmarking. **ADEA members can access the portal by using their institution email address and password to log in at dataportal.adea.org.**

Dr. Emilia Istrate, Senior Vice President of Policy and Education Research conducted 55 one-hour demonstrations with dental schools as well as demos and webinars with five of the seven ADEA Councils, the ADEA Board of Directors, ADEA Policy and Research Advisory Committee, *ADEA Journal of Dental Education* (JDE) Editorial Board at the American Public Health Association (APHA) 2025 Conference.

She also presented "ADEA Data Portal: A New Tool for Insights in Dental Public Health Education" at 2025 American Public Health Association (APHA) Conference, Nov. 2–5, 2025, in Washington, DC to show the capabilities of the portal.



Two months after the launch of the [ADEA Data Portal](https://dataportal.adea.org), there were **624 users and nearly 1000 today.**

Two months after launch, there were **624 users** of the portal. The deans' and advanced program directors' usage during the first month surpassed the three-month usage benchmarks. Usage is going strong into 2026, with 826 users by mid-February 2026.

ADEA Sends Letter to DHS Advocating for H-1B Visa Exemptions for Dentists and Dental Faculty

In September 2025, the Trump administration imposed a \$100,000 fee for new H-1B visa applications. The H-1B visa program allows U.S. employers to hire highly skilled foreign workers in specialty fields, and the health care sector is particularly reliant on these visas. On Sept. 29, 2025, ADEA urged Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Kristi Noem in [a letter](#) to include dentists and dental faculty in any H-1B exemptions, **emphasizing the essential role these professionals play in improving oral health access, particularly within underserved communities**. ADEA noted that federal law already recognizes Doctor of Dental Surgery (D.D.S.) and Doctor of Dental Medicine (D.M.D.) in the statutory definition of "physician" under the *Social Security Act*. Excluding dental educators, the letter argued, would exacerbate recruitment challenges for clinical instructors and impede nationwide efforts to expand access to oral health care.

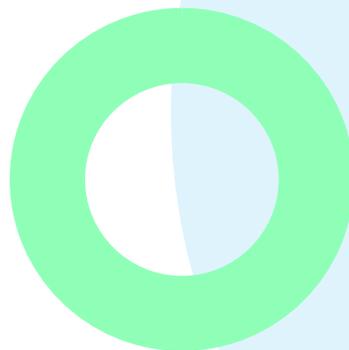
ADEA Joins Organized Dentistry Coalition Letter to USCIS

On Oct. 8, 2025, ADEA joined a broader dental coalition urging in [a letter](#) to Joseph Edlow, Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), to press for clarification on how a Presidential Proclamation on new H-1B visa fees applies to internationally trained dental professionals. The letter also **emphasized the essential contributions that international faculty make to academic dentistry**. The coalition further urged USCIS to consider exemptions or alternative pathways to avoid deepening existing faculty shortages. The letter cited ADEA's internal data showing that a significant share of dental school faculty earned their degrees abroad and later became permanent residents or citizens, evidence of international talent as a key channel for sustaining academic and clinical capacity.

ADEA, Federation of Associations of Schools of the Health Professions Send Letter to DHS



ADEA led a broader health professions effort through the Federation of Associations of Schools of the Health Professions (FASHP). This [sign-on letter](#) to Department of Homeland Security called for comprehensive exemptions for educators and clinicians across health disciplines for new H-1B visa fees applies to internationally trained dental professionals. ADEA and its partners **emphasized the critical relationship between H-1B-eligible faculty and the delivery of accredited training programs**, warning that limiting access to international instructors would have downstream effects on the health care workforce. By destabilizing core teaching roles, the letter cautioned, these policies would ultimately undermine efforts to strengthen clinical training access and address nationwide provider shortages.



ADEA Updates Summary of Legislation and Regulations Addressing Prescription Drug and Opioid Abuse

ADEA released its 2025 update to the [ADEA Summary of State Legislation and Regulations Addressing Prescription Drug and Opioid Abuse](#). This document provides a brief overview of state policies enacted in 2025 and is **intended to help oral health professionals stay up to date on recent changes to laws and regulations** that affect opioid-prescribing practices and other changes to opioid policy that are relevant to academic dentistry.

To view recently proposed and enacted legislative and regulatory changes that would impact opioid policy, visit the ADEA U.S. Interactive [Legislative and Regulatory Tracking Map](#) and select “Opioids” from the menu. Information on the ADEA interactive map is updated daily.

ADEA Centralized Application Services (ADEA CAS) Records a Banner Year

Between 2024 and 2025, ADEA saw strong growth in the number of applicants across our ADEA Centralized Application Services, **reflecting continued interest in careers in oral health and the important role our programs play in supporting the future workforce.**



ADEA Holds 2025 ADEA Fall Meetings

The ADEA Fall Meetings was held Oct. 15–17, 2025 in Colorado Springs, CO. The event provided a unique environment for those with various professional roles and interests to **find common ground and learn from other perspectives that together move dental education forward**. Faculty, staff and administrators tackled current critical issues and navigated the rapidly changing landscape of dental education from all angles. ADEA Councils conducted their mid-year business and attended joint education sessions. New to 2025, on day one of the three-day ADEA Fall Meetings event, ADEA offered a Professional Development Workshop entitled “Resiliency in Action: Sustainable Strategies for Oral Health Educators

ADEA Launches ADEA Connect Platform

The ADEA Information Technology Web Services (ITWS) division launched the new ADEA Connect platform on Dec. 17, 2025. The platform features a **modern interface and enhances the user experience**. It includes functionalities, such as multimedia publishing, content co-authoring and gamification. Additionally, it offers strong engagement tools like chat/messaging, event calendars, personalization and advanced search capabilities, along with admin controls for branding, customization and detailed analytics—all integrated with our Association Management System (AMS), Association Anywhere, for seamless member management.

ADEA Launches Search for New AMS Platform

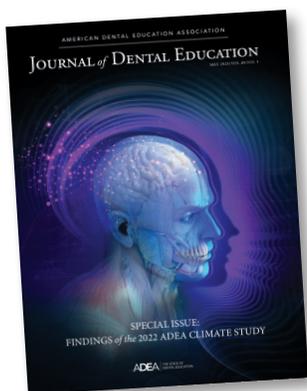
ITWS is excited to take the next step in evaluating and improving ADEA’s AMS. Because of the size and complexity of this project, ADEA has contracted with Achurch Consultants to help perform a gap analysis and assist with selecting and implementing a modern AMS. Selection of the new AMS platform is expected to happen in Spring 2026 with implementation beginning thereafter.

ADEA Committee and Section Name Changes in 2025

The ADEA Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee (DIAC) adopted its new name the ADEA Advisory Committee on Access and Strategic Change following ADEA Board of Directors’ approval at the September 2025 Joint Advisory Committee Meetings (JACM).

In addition, the ADEA Section on Minority Affairs, Diversity and Inclusion (MADI) Administrative Board met in October 2025 to revisit its proposed name change resolution. The discussion focused on ensuring that the new title aligns with the Section’s mission to **advance access, representation and success for historically underrepresented groups in dental education**. The Administrative Board finalized its recommendation in late November and submitted a resolution for a vote at the House of Delegates during the 2026 ADEA Annual Session & Exhibition.

The ADEA Women in Leadership (WIL) Section Administrative Board also met in November 2025 to discuss a new name that reflects long-term sustainability, inclusivity and compliance with evolving federal expectations on nondiscriminatory language. Legal review supports a name change to reduce compliance risk while maintaining the Section’s mission to **foster leadership development and advance equity**. The Section also submitted a resolution for a vote at the House of Delegates session at the 2026 ADEA Annual Session & Exhibition.



Journal of Dental Education (JDE) Releases Special Issue on ADEA Climate Study

A compendium of 2022 ADEA Climate Study-related articles was published in the *Journal of Dental Education* "Special Issue: Findings of the 2022 ADEA Climate Study" on May 27, 2025. Each author received a hard copy of the issue to commemorate their hard work and dedication.

ADEA Code of Conduct Workgroup Implements NAVEX Reporting Platform

The ADEA Code of Conduct Staff Implementation Workgroup is advancing core components for the 2026 launch, **focusing on three priorities: developing the Ethics Committee proposal, refining reference language for members and confirming upcoming meeting holds**. A kickoff meeting will begin implementation of the NAVEX reporting platform and staff investigator training, followed by a standard workgroup meeting to review member updates. NAVEX will go live in late November, and member inquiries and conduct reports will be directed to a monitored email account in the interim.

ADEA Council of Advanced Education Programs Summit Held at 2025 Fall Meetings

The 2025 ADEA Advanced Dental Education Summit was hosted at the 2025 ADEA Fall Meetings. Fifty-seven individuals listed ADEA COAEP as their primary or secondary meeting. The ADEA Corporate Council provided sponsorship, allowing attendees of the summit to get \$350 off their registration fee. This two-day summit brought together emerging and senior leaders in postgraduate dental education for an immersive experience **focused on faculty development, leadership and wellness**.

2025 ADEA BFACA in Colorado

ADEA held its 2025 ADEA BFACA on Oct. 19–21, 2025, in Colorado Springs, CO. With the theme of "Unity Moving Forward Together," the ADEA Sections on Business and Financial Administration and Clinic Administration (ADEA BFACA) Meeting brought together the individuals who drive "the business side" of dental education to **share knowledge and learn from one another and industry experts**. The conference's robust agenda attracts those interested in business, financial and clinical administration with a shared goal centering on improving business and clinical operations at dental education institutions.

ADEA Launches New Membership Initiative

The ADEA Member Engagement Team worked closely with the ADEA Access, Success and Impact (ASI) Division and the Department of Communications and Marketing (DCM) to configure and launch the new Student Hub, providing important resources for current and prospective ADEA student members. The Hub at <https://adea.org/StudentHub> will be **a key resource as ADEA grows student recruitment and engagement in 2026 and beyond**.

ADEA Presents at the National Dental Association Convention

ADEA staff presented on July 10 a session entitled “ADEA Update on Trends and Initiatives in Dental Education” at the National Dental Association’s Convention’s Minority Faculty, Administrators, and Practitioners Forum. The session highlighted key findings from the 2024–25 ADEA Trends in Dental Education Report, covering shifts in demographics, program growth, pathways to the profession, and relevant legislation. Speakers **offered insights to support student success, faculty development, and strategic planning**. Panelists include ADEA staff: Dr. Carolyn Booker, Senior Chief, Educational Services; Dr. Antanious White, Senior Director of Student Engagement and Success; Dr. Kristen Wong, Director of Student Engagement and Community Partnerships; Emmanuel Guillory, Senior Director at the American Council on Education; and the session moderator was Dr. Precious Ettah, ADEA Director of Faculty Engagement and Research Analytics.

ADEA Student Programs Survey

On Sept. 24, 2025, the Access, Success and Impact Division launched the ADEA Student Programs Survey to assess student awareness, participation and impact of four major programs: ADEA Chapters, the ADEA Academic Dental Careers Fellowship Program (ADCFP), the Student Diversity Leadership Program (SDLP) / Student Leaders for Social Change (SLSC), and the ADEA Annual Session & Exhibition Student Poster Sessions. The survey, which closed on Oct. 31, 2025, with **176 responses**, will inform recommendations to strengthen outreach, visibility and alignment of programming with ADEA’s Strategic Vision 2035.



2025 American Dental Association (ADA) House of Delegates (HOD) Hosted ADEA Caucuses and Testimonies

The 2025 ADA HOD reviewed key resolutions affecting global representation, dental student well-being, special populations, public health, accreditation, licensure, workforce policy, educational transparency and sedation standards. ADEA provided targeted testimony to safeguard educational excellence, support students and encourage evidence-based policy development. ADEA held two virtual caucuses to discuss 2025 ADA Resolutions for member groups, the first with the Allied Dental Program Directors on Oct. 10, 2025, and the second with the dental school deans during the Deans’ Town Hall on Oct. 17, 2025. An in-person caucus was held on Oct. 24, 2025, in Washington, DC. Dr. Karen P. West, ADEA President and CEO; Dr. Todd Ester, Chair of the ADEA Board of Directors; Dr. Susan Kass, Immediate Past Chair of the Board; and Dr. Cherae Farmer-Dixon, ADEA Chair-elect of the Board presented testimonies for 11 selected ADA resolutions during the 2025 ADA Annual Meeting.

ADEA Launches ADEA Chairside™

ADEA launched the [ADEA Chairside™](#) to offer evidence-based, clinically relevant resources that support students and faculty in enhancing patient care and clinical decision-making. A recent addition to the series includes “Talking Points on Community Water Fluoridation,” **designed to help faculty and students confidently address common patient questions and promote informed conversations in the clinical setting.**

In support of our faculty and student members at the Chairside, ADEA used AI platforms to convert our reports to audio format.

Journal of Dental Education (JDE) Transitions to New Manuscript Submission Platform

On July 1, 2025, the *JDE* began transitioning to the new Wiley Research Exchange manuscript submission, screening and review platforms. These platforms incorporate artificial intelligence to help streamline the submission process for authors and provide additional data during the screening process to help inform the *JDE* editors as they consider manuscripts.

A virtual supplement was posted on the *JDE* website in December 2025, which contained **33 Advancing Through Innovation articles** published online between Jan. 1 and June 30, 2025.

On Nov. 18, 2025, the *JDE* Editorial Team (Drs. Michael Reddy, Romesh Nalliah, and Hiroe Ohyama) met with Sue Kimner, *JDE* Managing Editor, and Tom Quash, Chief Communications and Marketing Officer, at the ADEA office for an all-day *JDE* strategy meeting. The team discussed ways to further engage the *JDE* Editorial Review Board, strategies for increasing the *JDE*'s impact factor, the evolution of the *Advancing Through Innovation* article series, potential topics for invited narrative reviews and potential ideas to commemorate the *JDE*'s 90th anniversary in 2026.

