



2025 ADEA Deans' Conference
November 8–10, 2025
The Drake Hotel
Chicago, IL

Leadership in a Time of Change and Uncertainty

Preliminary Agenda

Saturday, Nov. 8

- 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. **Registration**
- 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. **Council of Deans Administrative Board Meeting**
(By invitation only)
- Noon – 1:00 p.m. **Joint Lunch for ADEA New Deans' Workshop Attendees, ADEA COD Fellows, ADEA COD Administrative Board and Members of the ADEA Board of Directors**
(By invitation only)
- 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. **ADEA All Deans' Workshop**

Presenter:
Sherin Took, Ed.D., M.S.
ADEA Senior Chief, Knowledge, Engagement and Development
American Dental Education Association

Deans' Development Workshop: Reflections on the accreditation process.
- 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. **Opening Session: Welcome and Introductions**

Presenters:
Richard Black, D.D.S., M.S.
Chair, ADEA Council of Deans
Dean, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso
Woody L. Hunt School of Dental Medicine

Todd V. Ester, D.D.S., M.A.
Chair of the ADEA Board of Directors
Clinical Associate Professor and Associate Dean for Well-being and People
University of Michigan, School of Dentistry

Karen West, D.M.D., M.P.H.
ADEA President and CEO

Keynote Session—Leading Through Uncertainty: Clarity, Conviction, and Humanity

Presenter:

Nikkia Reveillac

Ms. Reveillac is a transformation leader, storyteller and former executive at Netflix, Twitter and Colgate Palmolive, where she served as Director of Insights & Analytics for the Africa Eurasia Division.

In a world where change is constant and disruption is the norm, the ability to lead through uncertainty is now a necessity. In this session, participants will learn what truly separates resilient, effective leaders from the rest: clarity, empathy and the courage to act in the face of the unknown. In this insightful and timely session, Ms. Reveillac will offer a behind-the-scenes look at how high-stakes decisions are made under intense pressure and in the midst of uncertainty. She will share her “human-first” approach to leadership, blending data-driven insights with emotional intelligence to guide teams through chaos and complexity.

Learning Objectives

- Describe strategies for demonstrating resiliency in leadership.
- Explain the role emotional intelligence plays in successful leadership.
- Apply proven leadership skills in situations where there are limited data and significant uncertainty.

CE Credits: 1.5

5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Welcome Reception

Co-sponsored by KaVo, LM Dental and Planmeca

Dinner on Your Own

Sunday, Nov. 9

7:00 a.m. – noon

Registration

7:00 – 8:00 a.m.

Networking Breakfast

8:00 a.m. – noon

Navigating Innovations in Education: The Impact of AI on Higher Education and Health Professions Education

Presenters:

Lee Rainie, M.A.

Director of Elon University Center for Imagining the Digital Future

Allison Whelan, M.D.

Chief Academic Officer

Association of American Medical Colleges

Mr. Rainie and Dr. Whelan will explore the key issues and implications that deans of dental schools and attendees must consider when navigating the challenging world of technology, digital applications and artificial intelligence (AI). Mr. Rainie will present research on the adoption of AI across higher education, including frameworks for the responsible and ethical use of these tools. Dr. Whelan will share models for incorporating AI into health professions education, including frameworks for integrating AI with a focus on educators and learners.

Learning Objectives

- Explain ethical implications of incorporating AI and emerging technologies into programs.
- Develop a holistic perspective on the many ways AI and new technologies are being adopted within higher education and health professions education, including both operations and curricula.
- Identify learner and educator strategies for incorporating AI and other new technologies into professional programming.

CE Credits: 4.0

Noon – 1:00 p.m.

Networking Lunch

Sponsored by A-dec

1:00 – 3:30 p.m.

One year later: The Changing Political Landscape for Higher Education

Presenter:

Jonathan Fansmith, M.A.

Senior Vice President, Government Relations and National Engagement
American Council on Education

Timothy Leeth, CPA

Chief Advocacy Officer

American Dental Education Association

Mr. Fansmith reprises his presentation from last year's ADEA Deans' Conference on the implications of the 2024 election, with an update and analysis of the current political and policy environment for higher education in light of the many federal policy changes, Executive Orders and government efficiency efforts. He will share insights into how the higher education community is responding and what might lie ahead for higher education. The session will also provide updates on issues specific to oral health and oral health education, such as NIDCR status and funding, and address critical topics for dental education.

Learning Objectives

- Describe the key changes in the higher education landscape since the 2024 election.
- Explain the status, timing and impact of oral health-related changes enacted through Executive Orders.

- Develop a perspective on the impact of federal policy changes on the future of the higher education and the health professions.

CE Credits: 2.5

4:00 – 6:00 p.m. **Chicago Bites and Suds**
Sponsored by Orasoptic

7:00 – 9:00 p.m. **Deans' Dinner**

Monday, Nov. 10

7:30 – 8:00 a.m. **Networking Breakfast**

8:00 – 11:00 a.m. **Unwavering Leadership Skills for a Time of Uncertainty**

Presenter:
Gerald Bell, M.S., Ph.D.
Founder
Bell Leadership Institute

Our talented leaders are facing extreme and complex challenges which make leading today extraordinarily challenging, but they are still expected to create outstanding results. Many leaders in academic dentistry are highly trained in clinical excellence, science and technology—but far less so in the leadership, communication and team building skills required to inspire people and create positive results.

In this keynote, Dr. Gerald Bell will explore the methods practiced by the most highly effective dental leaders. Drawing on decades of research and his work with leaders across professions, Dr. Bell will highlight the skills and patterns of behavior that have the greatest impact on success. Through interactive exercises and reflection, participants will consider both how they lead—their personality, communication, and relational style—and what they need to do to be effective, including building strong teams and leading change.

Dr. Bell will also address the reality that today's environment of rapid change makes leadership even more important, requiring leaders to raise their adaptability while still holding firm to core principles. Attendees will leave with practical tools, fresh insights and take-home actions to increase their leadership impact in their schools and across the profession.

Learning Objectives

- Gain a clearer understanding of leadership behaviors that support effectiveness in times of change.
- Reflect on their own leadership approach and areas for growth.

- Consider communication and relationship practices that help build alignment and trust.
- Apply ideas and tools to strengthen their ability to build teams and guide change.

CE Credits: 3.0

11:00 a.m. **Conference Ends for Corporates and Seconds**

11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. **Lunch and ADEA COD Business Meeting**
(For members of the ADEA COD and invited guests only)

Lunch and ADEA Corporate Council Business Meeting

2:00 p.m. **Adjourn**

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