



2026 ADEA Fall Meetings
October 21-23, 2026
Renaissance Harborplace Baltimore
Baltimore, MD

ADEA Sections on Dental School Admissions Officers, Financial Aid and Student Affairs
(ADEA AFASA)

Preliminary Meeting Agenda

Educational Methods: All sessions will incorporate lecture and discussion teaching methods.

Wednesday, October 21

7:15 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Registration

7:45 – 8:45 a.m.

Joint Networking Breakfast

Participants are encouraged to connect across ADEA councils and communities and discuss one question:

What is the most consequential or significant uncertainty facing your institution, school or program as it prepares students for the 2035 workforce?

8:45 – 8:55 a.m.

Welcome

Presenters

Cherae M. Farmer-Dixon, D.D.S., M.S.P.H.
ADEA Chair of the Board

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

8:55 – 10:15 a.m.

Joint Opening Plenary: Vision Elevated; Impact Amplified – Plenary I

Seeing the Landscape – Vocabulary, Framework and Plausible Futures for Oral Health Education

*2026 ADEA Fall Meetings
Preliminary Agenda*

Presenter

John Austin, Ph.D.

Dean of the Honors College and P.D. Merrill Endowed Chair of
Business in the College of Business Leadership
University of New England

Moderator and Facilitator

Sonya Smith, Ed.D., J.D., M.Ed., M.A.

ADEA Chief Operating Officer; Chief of Staff

Panelists

Karen P. West, D.M.D., M.P.H.

ADEA President and CEO

John Austin, Ph.D.

Dean of the Honors College and P.D. Merrill Endowed Chair of
Business in the College of Business Leadership
University of New England

Others TBA

This opening plenary will establish a shared vocabulary for understanding and navigating uncertainty in oral health education. The Uncertainty Intelligence framework core skills will also be discussed, and examples of how it can be used as a tool to build confidence when navigating uncertainty and rapid change will be provided. Participants will examine trends, drivers, signals, predetermined elements, critical uncertainties and plausible scenarios affecting the future of oral health education and care. Brief facilitated interviews and moderated panel discussions will feature speakers and presenters who will explore key trends in oral health education that are driving innovation and transformative change. Key ADEA Strategic Vision 2035 Task Force (ADEA SV2035) and the ADEA Task Force on Envisioning and Transforming the Future of Oral Health and Education (ADEA TF-ETFOHE) activities will be featured, along with the aims and implications for oral health education. Connections to other related oral health education partnerships will be highlighted.

Learning Objectives

- Identify the components of the uncertainty intelligence framework that are used to help leaders more effectively respond to rapid change and ambiguity.
- Highlight key current and future trends impacting oral health education currently and future trends that are expected to drive change and transform oral health education in the next decade.
- Distinguish between the purposes of the ADEA SV2035 Task Force and the ADEA TF-ETFOHE.

*2026 ADEA Fall Meetings
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- Describe key strategic uncertainties and plausible future scenarios that may shape U.S. oral health education, the oral health profession, and the broader oral health ecosystem over the next decade.

CE Credits: 1.25

10:15 – 10:45 a.m.

Joint Networking Break

10:45 – 11:30 a.m.

Welcome, Introductions and Wellness

Speakers:

Corey Berry

ADEA Chair of the Section on Dental School Admissions
Admissions Counselor

Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC

Alisha Marble

ADEA Chair of the Section on Student Affairs/Financial Aid
Program Manager of Student Affairs

Boston University Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine

The AFASA leadership team will kick off the meeting by introducing the 2026 team members and welcoming new and returning members. This opening session will provide an opportunity for new AFASA members to introduce themselves, build new connections and provide an overview of the agenda.

The session will also include a brief wellness activity designed to introduce the importance of wellness, as well as promote and practice mindfulness, stress reduction and encourage participants to be fully present entering the fall session.

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

The Shifting Political Landscape and Its Impact on Admissions and Financial Aid

Speaker:

Hilary Malawer, J.D., M.S.

ADEA Chief Advocacy Officer

The political landscape is shifting rapidly, bringing significant changes to higher education policy and creating new challenges for admissions and financial aid professionals. Federal legislation, student loan reforms, litigation, executive actions and evolving policy priorities are influencing how students access and finance oral health education and how institutions recruit, enroll and support future oral health professionals. This session will examine the most significant federal policy developments affecting

admissions and financial aid, explore their implications for oral health education and discuss practical considerations for institutions as they adapt to an evolving policy environment. Participants will have opportunities to engage in discussion and reflect on how these developments may shape their own institutional policies and practices.

Learning Objectives

- Describe recent federal legislative, regulatory and judicial developments affecting admissions, student financial aid and oral health education.
- Evaluate the potential impact of the current political landscape on student recruitment, enrollment, borrowing and access to oral health education programs.
- Identify practical strategies admissions and financial aid professionals can use to help their institutions and students navigate an evolving policy environment.

CE: 1.0

12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

Joint Networking Lunch

1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Rethinking the “Experiences” Section in ADEA AADSAS and ADEA CAAPID (Concurrent Session)

Speakers

Chonté James

ADEA Senior Director of Predoctoral Application Service

Emily Rhineberger, Ed.D., M.A.

ADEA Vice President of Centralized Application Services Operations

Admissions committees seek applicants who demonstrate a commitment to and passion for oral health. The Experiences section of ADEA AADSAS® (ADEA Associated American Dental Schools Application Service) and ADEA CAAPID® (ADEA Centralized Application for Advanced Placement for International Dentists) have long been a repository for these activities, yet the section remains unchanged despite recent conversations about the evolution of admissions practices.

Prompted by a single user question, the ADEA AADSAS Advisory Group has begun reexamining how applicant experiences are collected, organized and presented. This interactive session will introduce proposed enhancements to both the application and WebAdMIT with a goal to transform experiences from static activity

lists into more meaningful, reviewable data that better supports admissions decision-making.

Participants will examine the role of experiences in the admissions process, discuss potential benefits and challenges of the proposed changes and provide feedback.

Learning Objectives

- Examine the role of experiences in ADEA AADSAS and ADEA CAAPID.
- Discuss potential benefits and challenges of the proposed changes to the experience section.
- Summarize recommendations for the collection and display of experiences in the future

1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

CE Credits: 1.0

Admissions and Student Affairs: Building Pathways to Student Success (Concurrent Session)

Speakers

AFASA Leadership Team

This collaborative session will explore how admissions and student affairs professionals can collaborate to create a seamless transition from applicant to enrolled student. Through shared experiences discussion and idea exchange, participants will examine strategies for strengthening the matriculation process, improving communication and developing intentional partnerships that support student success from the moment of acceptance through enrollment and beyond. Attendees will discuss current collaboration models for supporting incoming student success and identify opportunities to enhance the student experience.

Learning Objectives

- Describe the roles of Admissions and Student Affairs in supporting students throughout the matriculation process.
- Identify effective partnership strategies that strengthen collaboration between Admissions and Student Affairs offices to improve the transition from applicant to enrolled student.
- Develop at least one collaborative initiative or process that can enhance communication, student engagement and overall student success at their institution.

2:30 – 3:00 p.m.

CE Credits: 1.0

AFASA Networking Speed Dating

Speakers
AFASA Leadership Team

Join fellow AFASA members for a fun and engaging speed networking experience designed to build connections, foster collaboration and strengthen our professional community. Participants will have the opportunity to meet members they may have not interacted with before, exchange ideas, share best practices and learn more about the unique perspectives and experiences of our colleagues. Through a series of brief conversations and guided prompts, attendees will expand their professional network, discover new approaches to common challenges and create opportunities for future collaboration within AFASA.

3:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Joint Networking Break

3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Joint Afternoon Plenary: Vision Elevated; Impact Amplified – Plenary II

From Insight to Action – Tools for Strategy, Capacity and Leadership Across Multiple Futures

Presenters and Facilitators

John Austin, Ph.D.

Dean of the Honors College and P.D. Merrill Endowed Chair of Business in the College of Business Leadership
University of New England

Tolga Vural, M.B.A.

Senior Corporate Strategist
Aegean Associates

The second interactive plenary will move participants from future insight to strategic action. Using insights from the morning plenary related to trends impacting oral health education and tools, participants will engage in table-top-based scenario analysis to reflect on leadership choices and strategies that promote resilience and are important to ensure that ADEA member schools, institutions and programs thrive and prepare future-ready graduates that can effectively serve all communities.

Building on the morning's scenario analysis, participants will engage in group scenario-based exercises and explore plausible futures for oral health education over the next decade. Participants should bring a laptop or tablet to record scenario responses via an online platform. There will be the opportunity for groups to share

key insights and assess implications for the oral health education community, oral health profession and ADEA Member Institutions, schools and programs. Working in groups and through online platforms and live engagement, participants will identify and discuss strategic priorities, durable capabilities and leadership decisions that can help ensure that the oral health institutions, schools and programs have the capacity to lead and drive future change that will prepare the next generation of the oral health workforce to improve oral health outcomes and overall health for all populations.

Learning Objectives

- Describe key strategic uncertainties and plausible future scenarios that may shape oral health education, the oral health profession and the broader oral health ecosystem throughout the next decade.
- Evaluate how different future scenarios could affect the current and future strategic roles of oral health education institutions, schools and programs and their ability to graduate a future-ready, oral health workforce and serve their communities.
- Identify strategic priorities, organizational capabilities and leadership choices that can help oral health institutions, schools and programs remain relevant, resilient and impactful across multiple possible futures.

CE Credits: 1.5

5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Joint Research Poster Showcase and Networking Reception

Thursday, October 22

7:15 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Registration

7:45 – 8:45 a.m.

Joint Networking Breakfast

8:45 – 10:00 a.m.

Joint Morning Plenary: Vision Elevated, Impact Amplified – Plenary III

Reshaping Academic Dentistry: Trends, Artificial Intelligence and the Future Learning Environment

Presenter

Ahmed S. Sultan, B.D.S., Ph.D.

Director of the Division of Artificial Intelligence Research Division

Chief of Diagnostic Sciences

Assistant Professor and Director of the Advanced Program in Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology Residency

University of Maryland School of Dentistry

As artificial intelligence (AI) becomes embedded in dental education, a critical question sits alongside its promise: What happens to clinical reasoning when trainees offload cognitive work to AI before they've built the underlying skill themselves? This plenary examines "never-skilling"—the failure to ever develop a foundational competency because AI performed the task first, and distinguishes it from deskilling, whereby an already-acquired skill erodes through disuse. Participants will also be introduced to AI health literacy, an emerging competency describing the judgment and critical-appraisal skills clinicians and students need to use AI safely in health contexts.

Through real-world examples spanning simulation, radiographic interpretation, treatment planning and gamified learning tools, this session offers a practical framework for evaluating AI's place in the dental curriculum. Participants will examine narrow use cases where AI meaningfully supports instructors and students; contrast these with situations where AI use is slower, less accurate or introduces clinical risk; and consider what "opening the Pandora's box" of AI-assisted reasoning means for critical thinking and professional accountability. The session closes on a constructive note—how, when used deliberately, AI can strengthen the cognitive foundations of dental practice and build the AI health literacy today's graduates will need.

Learning Objectives

- Define AI health literacy and differentiate between deskilling and never-skilling, examining how cognitive outsourcing to AI may shape—or short-circuit—dental students' development of diagnostic reasoning and clinical judgment.
- Evaluate AI-driven gamification and adaptive learning tools in dental education, weighing their potential to boost engagement and skill acquisition against the risk of superficial or passive learning.
- Identify narrow, evidence-based use cases where AI meaningfully benefits instructors and students and distinguish these from situations where AI use is slower and less accurate or introduces clinical risk.
- Analyze the "Pandora's box" of AI-assisted reasoning and decision-making and its implications for critical thinking, professional accountability and patient safety.
- Apply strategies for integrating AI into dental teaching and clinical training that protect foundational skill development while capturing AI's genuine benefits for learners and educators.

CE Credits: 1.25

10:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Joint Networking Break

10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Beyond the Application: The Realities, Risks and Rewards of Kira and CASPer in Dental Admissions

Speakers
AFASA Leadership Team

As dental schools continue to refine their holistic admissions processes, many institutions are evaluating supplemental assessment tools, such as Kira and CASPer, to better understand applicants beyond traditional academic metrics. While some schools have integrated one or both platforms into their admissions process, others are exploring whether these tools add meaningful value or create unintended barriers for applicants.

This interactive panel discussion will bring together admissions leaders from dental schools with varying experiences using Kira and CASPer. Panelists will discuss how their institutions implement these tools, the rationale behind their decisions, lessons learned and the perceived benefits and challenges of each platform. Participants will gain practical insights into implementation strategies, question development, applicant experience and how these assessments fit within a holistic admissions process. Whether your institution currently uses these platforms or is considering adopting them, this session will provide valuable perspectives to inform future admissions practices.

Learning Objectives

- Describe the primary features and intended purposes of Kira and CASPer within the dental school admissions process.
- Compare the advantages, limitations and institutional experiences associated with implementing Kira and CASPer as components of holistic admissions.
- Evaluate how different dental schools utilize these platforms, including customized interview questions, assessment strategies and decision-making processes.
- Identify key considerations for determining whether supplemental admissions assessment tools align with their institution's admissions goals, resources and applicant experience.

CE: 1.0

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Brushing up on Wellness: Book Talk!

Speakers
Corey Berry
ADEA Chair of the Section on Dental School Admissions
Admissions Counselor
Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC

Alisha Marble
ADEA Chair of the Section on Student Affairs/Financial Aid
Program Manager of Student Affairs
Boston University Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine

This session will provide a wellness-focused discussion, featuring a speaker who will explore key themes and insights from a selected wellness book. Attendees will be able to reflect on topics related to student well-being, resilience, self-care, mindfulness and healthy habits. Participants will engage in thoughtful conversation, gain practical strategies for incorporating wellness into their daily practice.

12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

Joint Networking Lunch

1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Managing Student Mental Health Challenges: Identifying Barriers and Building Effective Support Systems in Dental Education
(Joint Programming AFASA, COS, COAEP and COF)

Speakers
Margaret Yang, Ph.D.
Assistant Dean of Student Affairs
University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine

Dawn Roberts, Ed.D.
Dean of Well Being and Engagement
University of Maryland School of Dentistry

Dental students face significant academic, clinical, financial and personal pressures that can affect their mental health and overall wellbeing. While many institutions offer counseling and wellness resources, students do not always seek help when they need it. Fear of stigma, concerns about confidentiality, lack of time and uncertainty about available resources can create barriers to support.

This interactive session will explore common mental health challenges facing dental students, discuss why students may hesitate to seek help and highlight strategies institutions can use to identify, support and refer students in need. Participants will have the opportunity to share practices, discuss challenges and learn

how dental schools can create a culture that promotes wellbeing and student success.

Learning Objectives

- Identify common mental health challenges and stressors experienced by dental students.
- Discuss barriers that may prevent students from seeking mental health support.
- Explore strategies for recognizing and responding to students who may be struggling.
- Share institutional practices that promote student wellbeing and increase utilization of support services.

CE Credits: 1.5

3:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Joint Networking Break

3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Joint Afternoon Plenary: Vision Elevated, Impact Amplified – Plenary IV

Beyond AI Training: Building Organizational Readiness for AI in Academic Dentistry

Presenter

Jessica A. Stansbury, Ed.D., M.A.

Director, Center for AI Learning and Community-Engaged Innovation (CAILI)

Director of Teaching and Learning Excellence

Center for Excellence in Learning, Teaching and Technology (CELTT)

University of Baltimore

This interactive workshop invites academic dental leaders, faculty and staff to examine a critical question: What does it take for an institution—not just its early adopters—to become ready for artificial intelligence (AI)? Artificial intelligence is already influencing teaching, clinical education, research, student learning and institutional operations. Yet increased AI activity does not necessarily mean an institution is ready for meaningful and sustained AI integration. Academic dental institutions may offer workshops, develop guidance, explore new tools or support individual innovators while still facing uneven adoption, unresolved concerns, fragmented decision-making and uncertainty about how to move from experimentation toward coordinated institutional action.

Through live polling, institutional reflection, small-group discussion and practical readiness exercises, participants will examine where

their institutions currently stand, who is participating in AI adoption, who may be missing from the conversation and how to preserve human-centered values that define exceptional education, leadership and patient care. Participants will explore how trust, understanding, access, relevance and participation shape AI readiness and influence the implementation of AI across academic environments.

The session will help participants distinguish between visible AI activity and deeper institutional readiness while examining the organizational and human conditions necessary to move from isolated experimentation and one-time training toward coordinated, responsible and mission-aligned integration. Participants will leave with a clearer understanding of their institution's current readiness, the barriers that may be limiting progress and practical next steps for advancing AI integration within their programs, schools and institutions.

Learning Objectives

- Identify practical future-ready, AI-enabled applications.
- Assess where their institution or program currently stands in the progression from AI familiarity and experimentation toward meaningful integration and organizational transformation.
- Identify human and organizational factors—including trust, understanding, access, values, relevance and participation—that influence AI readiness across teaching, clinical education, research and institutional operations.
- Distinguish between isolated AI activity and coordinated institutional strategy, and identify practical actions that can support responsible, inclusive and mission-aligned AI integration.

CE Credits: 1.5

Friday, October 23

7:15 – 10:30 a.m.

Registration

7:45 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.

Joint Networking Breakfast

8:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Joint Plenary: Vision Elevated, Impact Amplified –
Plenary V

Future-ready Oral Health Education: Preparing for an AI-enabled Future

Presenter

Meredith Bailey, D.M.D., M.B.A.
Clinical Assistant Professor of General Dentistry
Director of Education Support & Performance Evaluation
Boston University Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine

Artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming education, health care and the future of dental practice. As educators, we have the opportunity to shape the future by providing students with the tools they need to be successful both now and for years to come.

This session explores how academic leaders and educators can use AI to intentionally create future-ready, learning environments while preserving essential knowledge, including critical thinking, educator expertise and ethical principles. Through practical examples, institutional experiences, and implementation strategies, participants will examine how AI can enhance learner engagement and personalized feedback.

Participants will leave with practical strategies for responsibly integrating AI into dental education, along with a framework for preparing graduates who are technically proficient, adaptable and ready to lead the future of oral health care.

Learning Objectives

- Discuss how AI is influencing dental education and shaping the future of the oral health workforce.
- Identify practical applications of AI to enhance learner engagement, personalized feedback and educator effectiveness in dental education.
- Apply practical strategies to develop a future-ready oral health workforce that is adaptable, grounded in critical thinking and ethical principles and prepared to lead the future of the oral health profession.

CE Credits: 1.25

10:00 – 10:15 a.m.

Networking Break

10:15 – 11:15 a.m.

Steal This Idea: Sharing Solutions & Solving Challenges

Speakers

Veronica De-Lara, M.B.A.
Director of Student Affairs
Woody L. Hunt School of Dental Medicine

Bethsave "Betsy" Lozano
Director of Student Engagement and Belonging

University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry

Join AFASA colleagues for an interactive session focused on collaboration, innovation and practical problem-solving. During the **"Steal This Idea"** portion, institutions will have the opportunity to showcase a successful program, event or initiative, highlighting strategies, lessons learned and key takeaways that attendees can adapt and implement on their own campuses.

The session will also feature a **"Problem Swap"** round, where participants bring a real challenge, they are currently facing and work in small groups to brainstorm solutions, share perspectives and exchange ideas through timed discussions. Attendees will leave with fresh approaches, actionable strategies and new connections to support their work in admissions, financial aid and student affairs.

Learning Objectives

- Describe the roles of Admissions and Student Affairs in supporting students throughout the matriculation process.
- Identify effective partnership strategies that strengthen collaboration between Admissions and Student Affairs offices to improve the transition from applicant to enrolled student.
- Develop at least one collaborative initiative or process that can enhance communication, student engagement and overall student success at their institution.

CE Credits: 1.0

11:15 a.m.

Adjourn and Safe Travels Home!

Disclaimer

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CE Information

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ADEA designates this activity for 13.25 continuing education credits.

CE credit is awarded for overall participation in the ADEA Fall Meetings.

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