2026 ADEA Deans' Conference
November 7-9, 2026
Newport Harbor Island Resort
Newport, RI

From Policy to Practice: The Forces Reshaping Oral Health Education

Preliminary Agenda

Saturday, November 7

11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. **Beacon Ballroom Foyer**	**Registration**
9:00 – 11:00 a.m. **Portsmouth**	**Council of Deans (COD) Administrative Board Meeting** (By invitation only)
Noon – 1:00 p.m. **Newport**	**Joint Lunch for ADEA New Deans, ADEA COD Fellows, ADEA COD Administrative Board and Members of the ADEA Board of Directors** (By invitation only)
1:00 – 3:00 p.m. **Lewis Hall**	**Optional – Preconference Workshop: Calibrating Accreditation Expectations** (By invitation only to dental school deans, second faculty representatives, ADEA COD Fellows, ADEA COD Administrative Board and ADEA BOD) Presenter: Sherin Tooks, Ed.D., M.S. ADEA Senior Chief, Learning, Access and Development Accreditation standards are interpreted and applied many different ways across institutions. This workshop will use case studies to explore how schools approach accreditation standards. Through guided discussion, participants will compare perspectives and address questions and challenges. The session will identify areas of ambiguity and work toward a more shared understanding of how standards may be interpreted in practice. The goal is not to prescribe a single answer but to help participants better understand how compliance with accreditation standards can be achieved in real institutional contexts. Learning Objectives

- Analyze a variety of interpretations of accreditation standards.
- Develop a framework to comply with accreditation standards within your academic setting.

CE Credits: 2.0

4:00 – 5:30 p.m.
Beacon Ballroom BCD

Opening Session: Welcome and Introductions

Presenters:
Linda C. Niessen, D.M.D., M.P.H., M.P.P.
Chair, ADEA Council of Deans
Vice Provost for Oral Health Affairs and Dean,
Kansas City University College of Dental Medicine

Cherae M. Farmer-Dixon, D.D.S., M.S.P.H.
Chair, ADEA Board of Directors
Dean, Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry

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

Keynote Session:
The Economics of Health Care: Where Will the Future Lead Us?

Presenter:
Anthony T. Lo Sasso, Ph.D.
Robert F. and Sylvia T. Wagner Professor of Public Affairs,
La Follette School of Public Affairs
University of Wisconsin–Madison

Medicine and dentistry are often described as part of the same health care system, but they operate under very different economic models. Medicine has been shaped by third-party payment, large delivery systems, consolidation, government programs and policy oversight. Dentistry has historically remained more consumer-facing, practice-owner oriented and professionally autonomous, though some of those differences are narrowing.

In this opening conversation, health economist Anthony T. Lo Sasso will explore areas of convergence and divergence between medicine and dentistry, focusing on workforce dynamics, payment structures, ownership models, access and policy pressures. The session will consider what medicine's economic transformation may—and may not—imply for dentistry's future and what these trends mean for oral health education.

Learning Objectives

- Evaluate how economic differences between medicine and dentistry shape workforce, payment, ownership and care delivery models.
- Identify areas where dentistry may be converging with medicine, including consolidation, corporate ownership, public payment and policy oversight.
- Understand how broader health care trends may affect the future direction of oral health education.

CE Credits: 1.0

5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
Island Pavilion

Reception

Dinner on Your Own

Sunday, November 8

7:00 a.m. – noon
Beacon Ballroom Foyer

Registration

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.
Rose Island Ballroom

Networking Breakfast

9:00 – 10:00 a.m.
Beacon Ballroom BCD

From Theory to Practice: Implications of the Changing Economic Model for Oral Health Education

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

Justin Bower, M.B.A.
ADEA Board Director for the Corporate Council
Academic Account Manager, Haleon

Marnie L. Oakley, D.M.D.
Dean, University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine

Dr. Anthony T. Lo Sasso

The economic forces discussed during yesterday's keynote have implications for oral health education, the oral health workforce and the dental industry. This session will begin with a respondent panel sharing their perspectives on the keynote presentation, followed by an opportunity for discussion with your peers and the panelists to dig deeper into the changes facing oral health education.

Learning Objectives

- Analyze the implications of evolving health care economic models for oral health education program design, workforce development and institutional strategy.
- Evaluate different stakeholder perspectives from academic leaders, professional associations and industry on how dental education must adapt to shifting economic realities.

CE Credits: 1.0

10:00 – 10:30 a.m.
Beacon Ballroom Foyer

Break

10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Beacon Ballroom BCD

The Revised CODA Standards: What's Changing and What It Means for Your School

Presenters:
Keith Mays, D.D.S., Ph.D., M.S.
Chair, Commission on Dental Accreditation
Dean Emeritus, University of Minnesota School of Dentistry

Kathleen J. Hinshaw, Ed.D., LDH, FADHA
Senior Director, CODA and USDE Recognition Compliance

Cecile A. Feldman, D.M.D., M.B.A.
Dean, Rutgers School of Dental Medicine

The Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) is currently revising its standards. This session will provide an update on where the process stands, what areas of change are emerging and how those revisions may affect dental schools, as well as the status of the dental deans' suggestions to CODA as part of their stakeholder engagement project. Presenters will also outline the expected implementation timeline and discuss what institutional leaders should be considering now as the new standards take shape.

Learning Objectives

- Summarize insights into the direction of the revised CODA standards and anticipated implementation timeline.
- Indicate how emerging changes may affect institutional planning.

CE Credits: 1.0

11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
Beacon Ballroom BCD

From Theory to Practice: Implementing Entrustable Professional Activities

Presenters:
Elsbeth Kalenderian, D.D.S., Ph.D., M.P.H.

Member, ADEA EPA Workgroup
Dean, Marquette University School of Dentistry

Janet M. Guthmiller, D.D.S., Ph.D.
Dean, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Adams School of Dentistry

At the 2025 Deans' Conference, participants discussed the development and implementation of entrustable professional activities (EPAs) within dental schools. At the time, these efforts were mostly a "work in progress." This past year, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Adams School of Dentistry was the first dental school to undergo the CODA accreditation process using EPAs. The presenters will provide an update on the progress of the ADEA EPA Workgroup and their experience implementing EPAs within dental schools.

Learning Objectives

- Describe the progress of the ADEA EPA Workgroup and the key consideration for integrating Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs) into dental education curricula and assessment practices.
- Identify lessons learned, implementation challenges and effective strategies from dental schools' experiences adopting EPAs, including preparing for CODA accreditation.

CE Credits: 0.75

12:15 – 1:15 p.m.
Rose Island Ballroom

Networking Lunch, Sponsored by A-dec

1:15 – 2:30 p.m.
Beacon Ballroom BCD

After the Ballots Are Counted: What the Midterms May Mean for Higher Education

Presenters:
Jonathan Fansmith, M.A.
Senior Vice President, Government Relations and National Engagement
American Council on Education

Hilary Malawer, J.D.
Chief Advocacy Officer, ADEA

Jon Fansmith returns for a post-election briefing just one week after the midterms. This session will offer an early look at what the election results may mean for higher education and the policy environment ahead. In addition to reviewing key outcomes, the discussion will consider how shifting political priorities could affect funding, regulation and other issues relevant to oral health education.

Learning Objectives

- Understand potential implications of the midterm elections for higher education.
- Evaluate how changes in the political landscape may influence institutional priorities.

CE Credits: 1.25

2:30 p.m.
Location TBD

Photo With the Deans

3:30 – 5:30 p.m.
Conference Center Lobby

Social Activity, Sponsored by Orascoptic

7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Rose Island Ballroom

Deans' Dinner (Deans and COD Fellows)

Monday, November 9

7:30 – 8:30 a.m.
Rose Island Ballroom

Networking Breakfast

8:30 – 10:15 a.m.
Beacon Ballroom BCD

From Theory to Practice: How Schools Are Actually Using AI

Presenters:
Alexander Lee, D.M.D.
Professor and Assistant Dean for Dental Informatics, Western University of Health Sciences College of Dental Medicine

Carroll Ann Trotman, B.D.S., M.A., M.S.
Dean, The Ohio State University College of Dentistry

Nadeem Y. Karimbux, D.M.D., M.M.Sc.
Dean, Tufts University School of Dental Medicine

Michael S. Reddy, D.M.D., D.M.Sc.
Editor, *Journal of Dental Education*
Dean, University of California, San Francisco School of Dentistry

As AI tools move from experimentation into everyday use, dental schools are beginning to apply them in practical ways.

In response to feedback from past sessions, this discussion will focus on real examples rather than conceptual frameworks. Presenters will share how AI is currently being used in classrooms and clinical settings, along with lessons learned from early implementation.

The emphasis will be on what schools are actually doing and what others might realistically consider adopting.

Learning Objectives

- Recognize current practical uses of AI across dental school operations and education.
- Consider opportunities and challenges related to adopting similar tools at home institutions.

CE Credits: 1.75

10:15 – 10:30 a.m.
Beacon Ballroom Foyer

Break

10:45 – 11:20 a.m.
Beacon Ballroom BCD

National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) Update

Presenter:
Jennifer Webster-Cyriaque, D.D.S., Ph.D.
Deputy Director, NIDCR

A review of NIDCR funding programs will provide insight into oral health research strategies for programs, including newer funding program offerings. The national outlook for research support for the National Institutes of Health and NIDCR in the next budget cycle will be reviewed.

Learning Objectives

- Review various funding programs.
- Identify the funding outlook in 2027.

CE Credits: 0.5

11:20 – 11:30 a.m.

Wrap-up and Closing Comments

11:30 a.m.

Conference Adjourns (Business Meetings to Follow)

Noon – 2:30 p.m.
Lewis Hall

Lunch and ADEA COD Business Meeting
(For members of the ADEA COD, COD fellows and invited guests only)

Hamilton

Lunch and ADEA Corporate Council Business Meeting
(For members of the ADEA Corporate Council and invited guests only)

2:30 p.m.

Adjourn

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ADEA designates this activity for up to 9.25 continuing education credits.

CE credit is awarded for overall participation in the 2026 ADEA Deans' Conference.

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Dr. Linda Niessen, Dr. Cherae Farmer-Dixon, Dr. Anthony Lo Sasso, Dr. Cecile Feldman, Dr. Keith Mays, Dr. Kathleen Hinshaw, Dr. Elsbeth Kalenderian, Dr. Janet Guthmiller, Mr. Jonathan Fansmith, Dr. Alexander Lee, Dr. Carroll Ann Trotman, Dr. Nadeem Karimbux, Dr. Marnie Oakley, Dr. Michael Reddy, Dr. Sherin Tooks and Dr. Jennnifer Webster-Cyriaque agree that they do not have any financial relationships with commercial entities that may be relevant to their presentations.

Mr. Justin Bower acknowledges a financial relationship with Haleon (employee) that may be relevant to their presentation. All relevant financial relationships have been mitigated.
