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Nineteen Graduate from the Dental Champions Leadership Program

Merriam, Kansas - On May 4, 2012, nineteen leaders from across the state of Kansas graduate from the Oral Health Kansas Dental Champions Leadership Program. This year's graduating class is the fifth class in the program, which is designed to develop a network of state-level "Dental Champions" who hold a common progressive vision for improving oral health in Kansas.

The Dental Champions Leadership Program seeks to develop this state network of Dental Champions by:

- Furthering their understanding about the issue of oral health in Kansas
- Enhancing their skills in self-awareness and self-management
- Enhancing their ability and skills to understand the complex nature of oral health issues and choose appropriate interventions
- Enhancing their skills to initiate and facilitate adaptive work, including managing conflict, engaging others and communicating challenges related to oral health
- Enhancing their skills in advocacy and civic engagement

A graduating class member told Oral Health Kansas, "I envision being able to do my job even more effectively by becoming a Dental Champion."

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NEW Oral Health Kansas Webpages!

Oral Health Kansas has been working hard on developing our website pages for kids, educational videos and autism. To view the NEW pages click the following links:

[Autism Page](#)

[Educational Videos
Page](#)

[Just for Kids Page](#)

Grant Competition Launched by Delta Dental of Kansas and the Delta Dental of Kansas Foundation

Last week was the official launch of The Champions Project, a state-wide, mini-grant contest presented by Delta Dental of Kansas and the Delta Dental of Kansas Foundation. Voting will take place entirely online.

The six organizations that receive the most votes will each receive a \$2,500 mini-grant to implement an oral health program or initiative or to purchase supplies or equipment. Voting will be open through noon on Monday, May 14,

Since the program's inception Oral Health Kansas has been able to create a diverse network of 89 state-level "Dental Champions" who advocate and work form improvements in oral health in Kansas. The program has given graduates the skills necessary to do everything from create a new dental clinic at an impoverished school district to expanding oral health education in Head Start programs across the state.

"I'm pleased that such a diverse group of Kansas leaders took part in the Dental Champions Leadership Program this year," said Greg Hill, Vice President of the Dental Champions Advisory Board. "The talent among this group of Dental Champions will be a great resource to improve the oral health of people across the state."

Oral Health Kansas will begin recruiting for its sixth Dental Champions class later this year. The program is funded by the [United Methodist Health Ministry Fund](#) and [The REACH Healthcare Foundation](#).

For more information, visit the [Dental Champions](#) page at, or follow Oral Health Kansas on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.



Motivational Interviewing Skill Building Workshop

This FREE workshop will focus on a proven communication strategy - Motivational Interviewing - to encourage and support families of children birth to five to keep them cavity free.

The session will not be an introduction to Motivational Interviewing.

The entire workshop will be devoted to skill-building - demonstrations and coaching from the trainers, as well as practice sessions by participants.

2012. Voice Your
Choice at
[HERE](#)

You may vote as
many times as you
like!

Did You Know???

Approximately 95
percent of
Americans who
have diabetes also
have periodontal
disease and
research shows that
people with
periodontal disease
have more difficulty
controlling their
blood sugar level.

([The American Dental
Hygienists'
Association](#))

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Space is Limited, to register [CLICK HERE](#)

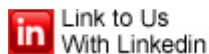
SAVE THE DATE

Make plans to attend the 2012 Oral Health Kansas Annual
Conference September 13-14, 2012 at the
[Hotel at Old Town](#) in Wichita, KS.

The Conference will feature a special reception with the new Big
Mouth exhibit at [Exploration Place](#) sponsored by
[Delta Dental of Kansas Foundation](#).



If you have an idea, story or suggestion for a Oral Health Kansas Weekly
Wednesday Update please send an email to jparnell@oralhealthkansas.org



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