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## In This Issue

Dental Champions  
Corner

A New Addition to  
ANOHC

Save the Date - Oral  
Health Kansas  
Conference

AEGD Director Hired

Making the  
Connection

Free CE Credits  
Available Online

Traveling Sugary Drink  
Display

## Dental Champions Corner

The Dental Champions  
Leadership Program  
enjoys a partnership  
with the Kansas  
Leadership Center.  
One of the KLC's Civic

## AEGD Director Hired



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WICHITA STATE  
UNIVERSITY

This week Dr. Keith Pickus,  
Wichita State Interim Dean of the  
College of Health Professions  
announced a new director for the  
state's only Advanced Education in  
General Dentistry (AEGD) program  
has been hired.

Dr. Dean Elledge will take over as  
the as the Director of the AEGD  
program on August 18, 2014. Dr.  
Elledge currently serves as the Assistant Director of the AEGD  
program at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of  
Dentistry, a position he has held since 1992, and he has been  
an Associate Professor of Prosthodontics since 1985. His  
extensive clinical and teaching experience will be invaluable  
assets for the AEGD program.

## Making the Connection

Leadership Competencies is "Manage Self." How often do you use this competency in your work? Do you know your strengths, vulnerabilities and triggers? Do you know the story others tell about you? How do you choose among competing values? Have you experimented beyond your comfort zone? How do you take care of yourself?

Leadership is an activity, and it is hard work. Learn more from the [Kansas Leadership Center](#).



## A New Addition to ANOHC



Rhode Island has recently become the 38th member of the [American Network of Oral Health Coalitions](#) (ANOHC). Visit the State of Rhode Island Oral Health Commission for more

We know a lot about some of the dangers of smoking, but there's one serious disease related to smoking that you hear less about - even though it is very hard to hide and impossible to ignore: gum disease.



Gum (periodontal) disease is an infection of the tissue and bones that support your teeth. In severe cases, the bone and tissue that hold your teeth in place can break down, leading people to lose many or all of their teeth. The National Institutes of Health [calls](#) smoking "one of the most significant risk factors" for gum disease in the United States. This summer, new [TV ads](#) by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are helping to raise awareness about smoking's link to poor oral health.

Gum disease starts when bacteria on your teeth get under your gums. What are the warning signs and symptoms of gum disease? Red, swollen or bleeding gums is one sign, and this [web page](#) provides other symptoms to look out for.

Smoking not only raises the risk of gum disease, but it can reduce a person's odds for successfully treating this problem. In fact, smokers are twice as likely as nonsmokers to have gum disease. Tobacco use in any form - cigarettes, pipes, and smokeless (spit) tobacco - raises your risk for gum disease. The longer you smoke, the greater your risk for gum disease.

If you smoke, it's never too late to quit. The CDC has a toll-free number that can connect smokers with free help to improve their odds of quitting smoking. If you know someone who smokes, encourage them to call 1-800-QUIT-NOW.

Since 2012, more than 1.6 million people [have called](#) this number to get free info on quitting. Let's do our part as oral health advocates to educate the public and encourage more Americans to quit.

## Free CE Credits Available Online

The Colgate Oral Health Network for Professional Education and Development offers free continuing education in the form of webinars and online courses. The courses are designed for oral health professionals, but are open to all who are interested in learning the latest evidence-based information and practices. Several focus on specific populations or treatments. There is a wide array of course offerings. [Check them out!](#)

[information.](#)

## Save the Date...

The 2014 Oral Health Kansas Conference will be November 6-8 at Wichita State University. This year's conference theme is Oral Health Across the Lifespan.

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)



## Traveling Sugary Drink Display

Reserve our traveling Sugary Drink Display for your business or event! Displays are available from June onward and reservations are made for one month at a time. Return postage is covered by Oral Health Kansas. [E-mail Sarah here](#) if you would like to make a reservation.



If you have an idea, story or suggestion for a Oral Health Kansas Weekly Wednesday Update please contact us at [info@oralhealthkansas.org](mailto:info@oralhealthkansas.org).

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