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To: jparnell@oralhealthkansas.org
Subject: Oral Health Kansas Weekly Wednesday Update



ORAL HEALTH KANSAS
Weekly Wednesday Update

*Our Mission:
To improve oral health
in Kansas through
advocacy,
public awareness
and education.*

Volume 3, Issue 36

July 18, 2012

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Featured Speaker

At the 2012 Oral Health Kansas Conference, you will have the chance to learn how one state is making progress on keeping

**Board of Regents Task Force:
Purchasing Dental Seats**

Three weeks ago we reported on a set of recommendations made by the Kansas Board of Regents' Oral Health Task Force. Kansas is one of fourteen states that does not have a dental school. Understanding the challenges our state faces by not having a dental school, the Board of Regents asked the task force to study oral health issues and make recommendations to the full Board of Regents. The task force recommended a two-phase approach to improving oral health in Kansas. The first phase was:

"Purchase seats from institutions in surrounding states (Missouri, Nebraska, and Oklahoma) and require that the students in those seats return to Kansas and begin working with underserved populations (e.g., Dental Care Service Deserts, persons with disabilities, Medicaid/HealthWave populations, persons without dental insurance, etc.). It is believed this action will help address the immediate issues of access to oral health care and fill the need for additional dentists in Kansas."

The state of Kansas currently has an agreement with the University of Missouri at Kansas City School of Dentistry that allows approximately 20 Kansas students each year to attend the school at the in-state tuition rate. The Board of Regents' task force recommendation regarding purchasing additional seats in dental schools would

young children cavity free. Karen Savioe is the Education Director at Colorado's Cavity Free at Three, whose goal is to work with medical providers to help prevent dental disease and detect it early.

Karen educates health professionals across Colorado about early childhood caries and gives them tools to teach their patients about preventing dental disease.

Now Accepting Award Nominations!

Oral Health Kansas is accepting nominations for our annual awards. Nominations in the following category are encouraged:

Organization
Dental Hygienist
Dentist
Community Leader
Policy Maker
Volunteer
Dental Champion

Nominations will be accepted from June 1st through July 30th.

To make a nomination
[CLICK HERE](#)

Review a list of past award winners [HERE](#)

Dental Champions Corner

Congratulations to Class 5 member Jon Stewart and the Heartland Community Health Center on producing a brilliant new video called "[Fill Up. Pour Out.](#)" The video shows the new approach Heartland is taking to health care and the role of generosity in the human experience.

Jon is the CEO of Heartland and

expand the possible number of Kansas dental students by allowing them to attend dental school in nearby states such as Nebraska and Oklahoma. The task force recommended:

"A baseline in-state tuition rate should be established in the student agreement, with the State of Kansas covering the difference in tuition. For example, in implementing tuition assistance with a variety of out-of-state schools, Kansas might consider financial support equivalent to that provided for Kansas students attending UMKC through the existing reciprocal program, and the state of Kansas would pay the difference between the relevant school's applicable tuition and \$32,238 (UMKC's current in-state tuition rate)." The task force also recommended the student contracts with the state of Kansas for the tuition assistance include an agreement that the student return to Kansas to serve in rural areas and/or serve vulnerable populations for a specified length of time.

In future Weekly Wednesday Updates, we will share additional details of the task force's recommendations.

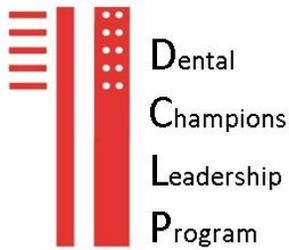


Make plans to attend the 2012 Oral Health Kansas Annual Conference September 13-14, 2012 at the Hotel at Old Town in Wichita, KS.

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

For more information or to register [CLICK HERE](#)

is a newly elected member of the
Dental Champions Advisory
Board.



a program of Oral Health Kansas, Inc.

Did You Know???

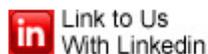
Strong evidence proves that
fluoridated water is a safe and
effective way to prevent tooth
decay in both children and adults.

This evidence comes from more
than 3,000 studies that have
examined fluoride and
fluoridation - and from more than
60 years of experience with
fluoridation in U.S. communities.

www.wichitansforhealthyteeth.org

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