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Dental Faculty and Practitioners Enhance Teaching Skills at Training Program

Atlanta, GA – The American Dental Education Association (ADEA) and Academy for Academic Leadership (AAL) held the [2016 Institute for Teaching and Learning](#) (ADEA/AAL ITL) in Atlanta at the Georgia Tech Conference Center on August 11-13 and October 13-15, 2016. The ADEA/AAL ITL is an intense professional development program created for early and mid-career faculty and private practice dentists who are interested in academic careers. The overall program goal is to help participants, designated as ITL Scholars, refine teaching skills to enhance the quality of their interactions with students and to develop other skills that facilitate confidence, job satisfaction, and professional growth in the academic environment.

The 2016 ADEA/AAL ITL class included more than 60 participants from dental schools, other academic dental institutions, as well as private practices. “The ADEA/AAL ITL now has well over 600 alumni since its launch in 2006,” explained N. Karl Haden, Ph.D., president of AAL. “The ITL is one of our most well received programs, with 99 percent of graduates reporting a positive or highly positive experience. The positive feedback we receive on the ITL program is a testament to the relevance of the program’s engaging curriculum and excellent instructors.”

At the ADEA/AAL ITL, participants learn the skills of a master teacher from renowned experts in pedagogy, curriculum development, higher education administration and leadership. The program occurs in two phases over six days, with a between-phases assignment. Participants in the ADEA/AAL ITL earn 50 continuing education units.

“The future of dental education depends on qualified and engaged faculty,” said Richard W. Valachovic, D.M.D., M.P.H., ADEA president and CEO. “ADEA is pleased to provide this opportunity to dental educators and private practice dentists who are transitioning to academic careers.”

“The true strength of this program lies in the collaboration with my fellow learners,” explained program participant Yung-Ting Hsu, D.D.S., M.S., MDSc, clinical assistant professor, University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry. “I am delighted not only to learn systematic knowledge from the ITL but also meet others who share in my passion for education.”

To date, a total of 183 tuition scholarships have been provided for individuals to participate in the ADEA/AAL ITL. Scholarships are provided by AAL and the ADEAGies Foundation, American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD), American Academy of Periodontology (AAP) Foundation, American Association of Endodontists (AAE) Foundation, American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS), American Association of Orthodontists (AAO), American Dental Association, Colgate Pharmaceuticals, Inc., and the Saudi Arabian Cultural Mission.

“There were so many great ideas emphasized during the training that my challenge now is deciding which one to implement first,” said program participant Irina Dragan, D.D.S., M.S., assistant professor, Tufts University School of Dental Medicine. “I would encourage every member of the academic community to attend the ITL!”

Next year’s ADEA/AAL ITL will take place August 17-19, 2017 and October 19-21, 2017 in Atlanta, Georgia. To learn more or to register for the 2017 ITL program, visit AALgroup.org/ITL.

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About the American Dental Education Association

The American Dental Education Association (ADEA) is The Voice of Dental Education. Its members include all 76 U.S. and Canadian dental schools, over 800 allied and advanced dental education programs, 66 corporations and more than 20,000 individuals. The mission of ADEA is to lead institutions and individuals in the dental education community to address contemporary issues influencing education, research and the delivery of oral health care for the overall health and safety of the public. ADEA’s activities encompass a wide range of research, advocacy, faculty development, meetings and communications, including the esteemed *Journal of Dental Education*, as well as the dental school admissions services ADEA AADSAS, ADEA PASS, ADEA DHCAS and ADEA CAAPID. For more information about ADEA, visit ADEA.org.

About the Academy for Academic Leadership

For more than a decade, the Academy for Academic Leadership (AAL) has been dedicated to advancing people and institutions through professional development and consulting services. Headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia, AAL provides customized professional development and consulting services for academic healthcare executives, educators, practitioners, institutions, and associations. AAL activities include leadership development, coaching, strategic planning, change management, team building, and curriculum development. For more information about AAL’s consulting services or professional development programs, please visit AALgroup.org.