MENTORSHIP PROGRAM LAUNCHED
MENTORS NEEDED!

CALL THE DC DENTAL SOCIETY OFFICE: 202-547-7615
OR
EMAIL THE DC DENTAL SOCIETY OFFICE AT: INFO@DCDENTAL.ORG

The mission of the DC Dental Foundation is to promote good oral health to the community and support the needs of the dental profession. It is the Foundation’s goal to connect with the community and help to change lives. As most of you know we have a strong relationship with Howard University College of Dentistry to help implement some of our access to care programs such as GKAS. The Foundation would like to strengthen this partnership by establishing a Mentorship Program with Howard students and our members. This program will support both the needs of the dental profession and change lives by allowing the students to observe how important organized dentistry is to private practice. There is a need for the young dentists entering the profession to understand and desire to be leaders and joiners in the profession. Being a mentor will complement the education that these students already receive at Howard. These students are our future!

Dean Leo Rouse has appointed Dr. Donna Grant Mills and Dr. Candace Mitchell to recruit and manage the student side of this program. Now we just need DC Dental Society members to volunteer to be a mentor and the program can begin.

Below is an outline of the program. Evaluation sheets have been developed and will be filled out by both the student and the mentor quarterly to make sure the match is compatible and valuable to both.

The students need your help. You and the profession will benefit from your involvement. If this is a program that you would like to participate in, please call the DC Dental Society office (202-547-7316) for more information.
Program Goals:

1. To welcome the dental student to the profession and to introduce him/her to the three levels of organized dentistry (national, state, and local).
2. To direct the student towards becoming a future actively participating member of the local component dental society.
3. To serve as a resource for specific information on organized dentistry, as well as general information on the profession.
4. To promote camaraderie and a feeling of belonging in the dental community from enrollment in dental school through graduation and the transition to dental practice.
5. To provide leadership mentoring to students interested in becoming involved at the state and national level of organized dentistry.
6. To aid the student through school and to ease the transition between dental school and post-graduate activities.
7. To provide opportunities for community service and philanthropy in the DC community.

Mentor Responsibilities:
Potential mentors should be members in good standing; members of all specialties and interests; and retired dentists who are dedicated active members and who continue to regularly attend sponsored events and meetings. Members should be willing to share their experiences in the profession and open their practice for visits.

The responsibilities of a mentor include contacting the student and establishing rapport, delivering information on organized dentistry and the component’s activities, inviting and accompanying the student to component meetings and activities, being a positive, ethical role model for the student, inviting the student to the mentor’s office to observe, reinforcing the importance of organized dentistry, and if possible, inviting the student to at least one non-professional activity (home, club, social, recreational, sports, etc.) each year.

Benefits of Being a Mentor:

- Networking with colleagues
- Working through problem solving – gaining new perspectives
- Sharing expertise
- Giving back to the profession by aiding organized dentistry
- Helping develop the profession’s future
- Staying apprised of changes in dental education
**Student Responsibilities:**
Each student is assigned a mentor the summer preceding his or her second year of dental school and is asked to communicate at least monthly with the mentor (telephone, lunch, office visit, social, recreational, etc.).

**Student Expectations:**

1. Honor and attend the invitations extended or set up alternate arrangements if it is not possible to attend.
2. Learn to ask questions about the profession, practice management, or other areas of interest.
3. Express your expectations for the relationship and define what you hope to gain.
4. Provide feedback to your mentor.

**BE A LEADER AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE. WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!**