

American Dental Education Association (ADEA)

The American Dental Education Association maintains a website at the following URL: <http://www.adea.org>. This association provides information not only for the educator and student in the dental and allied dental fields, but also for the consumer and anyone interested in dental education. The mission of the organization is 'to lead individuals and institutions of the dental education community to address contemporary issues influencing education, research, and the delivery of oral health care for the improvement of the health of the public' (<http://www.adea.org/ADEAInfo/about.html>).

This website provides a wealth of information about opportunities for careers in the dental field. It lists and provides links to the US Dental Schools as well as most of the dental hygiene programmes. In addition, there is a consumer link for exploring health careers on the home page.

The electronic versions of the ADEA publications can be accessed through the home page. These include the *Journal of Dental Education*, *Bulletin of Dental Education*, and the *Official Guide to Dental Schools*. Also found on the home page is the AADSAS (The American Association of Dental Schools Application Service). This link gives the dental school applicant a means of completing one application and being able to submit this form to multiple schools for admission consideration. A similar link is provided for post-doctoral applicants.

The sidebar of the home page is packed with links that provide both organizational information and resources for dental professionals. These links include Membership Information, News, Dental Schools and Allied Education Programs, Conferences and Meetings, Sections and Special Interest Groups, Board of Directors, Council and Administrative Boards, Center for Educational Policy and Research, The Leadership Institute, Center for Equity and Diversity, Center for Public Policy and Advocacy, Federal Grants, Scholarships, Awards and Fellowships, Related Organizations and Resources. This review will discuss few of the most pertinent sections.

The section on the Center for Educational Policy and Research provides many documents that support and deliver a vast amount of information about the state of dental and allied

dental education. Some of the sections in this link include Best Practices in Dental Education, Allied Dental Education at a Glance 2004 and Dental Education at a Glance 2004. Most of these sections provide data on the student populations and schools involved in the dental education process.

The ADEA Leadership Institute section gives us information regarding a sponsored year-long programme that is designed to foster national and international leaders for dental and allied dental education. Participants in this programme come from all areas of dental education. This section provides lists of past institute participants as well as applications for the institute and resources for the participants and other dental and allied dental educators.

The section on the Center for Equity and Diversity provides the reader with many policy statements on equality and diversity in dental education. It also links many faculty development and career opportunities designed to enhance minority participation and diversity in education.

The Center for Public Policy and Advocacy section gives the reader many links to national concerns and public policy statements effecting dental and allied dental education. There are links for Advocacy Alerts and Washington Updates. This section provides many tools for use in understanding and speaking about local and national legislation effecting education.

This website provides the reader with many invaluable tools for assessing the state of dental and allied dental education in the USA and Canada. Not only is there organizational information, but useful links that aid students in pursuing a dental education and faculty in developing their leadership skills.

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