



Dental Assisting National Board, Inc.  
Measuring Dental Assisting Excellence®

## Summary of major actions taken by DANB's Board of Directors at the Aug. 6, 2021 Annual Board Meeting

DANB Directors in attendance:

Michael Conte, D.M.D., M.P.H., Chair; Denise Romero, CDA, COA, FADAA, RDA, M.A., Ed.D., Vice Chair; Lois Bell, CDA, CPFDA, CRFDA, MADAA, Secretary-Treasurer; Karen Comisi, CDA, RDA, FADAA; Sandra Garcia, CDA, RDA, FADAA, FAADOM; Steven Holm, D.D.S.; Megan Morton, CDA; Connie Reed, CDA, EFDA, B.S.; Esther Scherb, D.M.D., J.D.

Incoming Directors in attendance (participated in the meeting without a vote):

Frank Maggio, D.D.S.; Janee Tamayo, CDA, CPFDA, MPA, TSgt Air Force; Kimberly Plate, CDA, CPFDA, CRFDA, B.S.

DANB's Executive Director Cindy Durley, M.Ed., MBA, serves as ex officio on DANB's Board of Directors and the DALE Foundation's Board of Trustees.

Laura Skarnulis was appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of DANB and the DALE Foundation by the DANB and DALE Foundation Boards after an extensive nationwide search led by executive recruiting firm Kittleman & Associates. Ms. Skarnulis assumed the role of CEO on Sept. 1, 2021, succeeding Cynthia C. Durley, M.Ed., MBA. As incoming CEO, Ms. Skarnulis also attended the Annual 2021 Board meeting.

### **DANB's Mission**

In August 2021, the Bylaws of the Dental Assisting National Board were amended. Most significantly is the update to reflect DANB's new mission statement. Changes include combining exams for dental assistants with testing services for groups within the oral healthcare community into one statement: *Valid exams for oral healthcare professionals.*

*DANB's mission is to promote the public good by providing credentialing services to the dental community. DANB accomplishes and measures the success of this mission through:*

- *A properly governed, financially secure, administratively sound organization.*
- *Valid exams for oral healthcare professionals.*
- *Recertification process integrity.*
- *Visible, valuable, and accessible DANB credentials.*
- *Information resources and related services for the oral healthcare community.*

### **Policy updates**

Some policies were temporarily amended/waived in 2020 to accommodate those candidates and certificants affected by the pandemic.

Until Dec. 31, 2021, DANB will continue to temporarily accept CPR certificates that were earned online without a hands-on component. Thus, certificants with a renewal date of Jan. 1, 2022, will be required to obtain a hands-on DANB-accepted CPR, BLS or ACLS card before they renew and candidates applying for DANB exams beginning Jan. 1, 2022, will need to submit hands-on

CPR as well. All other temporary amendments/waivers have been terminated and all candidates and certificants must currently meet all exam and renewal eligibility requirements.

### **DANB Candidate Services Updates**

DANB will continue to administer its exams in-person at Pearson VUE test centers. Effective second quarter 2022, all DANB exams will also be administered through Pearson VUE via secure online remote proctoring.

### **DANB Exam Fee Increases**

DANB exam fees will increase by a small percentage effective January 1, 2024. The new fees will be announced by this date. The last fee increase occurred Jan. 1, 2020.

### **DANB Certificant Services Updates**

#### **Renewal Fees Increase**

The DANB Board of Directors approved a certification renewal fee increase effective Jan. 1, 2023. Renewal fees will increase for certificants who hold one or two certifications from \$75 to \$85; who hold three DANB certifications from \$90 to \$95.

There will be no increase in renewal fees for certificants who hold four or more DANB certifications.

### **Update on DANB Collaborations**

#### **OSAP-DANB-DALE Foundation Collaboration**

The Organization for Safety, Asepsis and Prevention (OSAP), DANB, and the DALE Foundation infection control education and certification collaboration is currently pre-testing two certification programs in dental infection prevention and control and plans to launch these programs in early 2022. The OSAP-DALE Foundation Dental Infection Prevention and Control Certificate Program launched in 2020, and to date more than 1,000 oral health care professionals have earned the certificate.

#### **ADAA/DANB Scholarship**

In 2013, DANB and the ADAA formed a joint committee to establish parameters for an ADAA/DANB Scholarship, to be supported with matching funds from both organizations and to be awarded each year at the ADAA Annual Meeting. This scholarship is open to all ADAA members in good standing. The 2021 scholarship deadline will be Nov. 1, 2021. The ADAA/DANB Scholarship committee will review 2021 nominations and will notify the winner(s) later this year. The winner(s) will also be announced through each organization's communication channels, including website, newsletter, and email blasts.

#### **Entry Level DA Curriculum Framework**

To address the national dental assistant shortage, DANB and the DALE Foundation are continuing work on the Board-approved Two Year ELDAC Framework Pilot Project at Dickinson High School, Dickinson, ND. This hybrid model of online entry level dental assisting curriculum is entering the second and final year highlighting DANB's National Entry Level Dental Assistant (NELDA®) certification and DALE Foundation courses, integrating job shadowing, clinical preceptorship, and community service opportunities. Four new students in their junior year have joined two rising seniors in the second year of this pilot. Dr. Carolyn Breen will continue in her

position as the DANB/DALE Foundation Education Consultant in the role of liaison to the DHS ELDAC Pilot Program, through May 31, 2022.

### Digital Badging

DANB is working with Credly to provide DANB and the DALE Foundation with digital badges for all DALE Foundation learners and DANB credential holders. It's up to the individuals to activate the digital badges. Once they do, they can apply them to electronic business cards or resumes, their LinkedIn profiles, etc. We hope to have digital badges available by January 2022.

### Collaboration with Temple University

DANB and the DALE Foundation began the seventh year collaborating with Temple University's Kornberg School of Dentistry on its post-baccalaureate program for aspiring dental students. The program, which began in June 2015, includes an innovative combination of dental assisting training and practice, as well as advanced translational science courses. After successfully completing the program, students who meet the published admission criteria and have applied through the formal admission process may be conditionally accepted to Temple University's Doctor of Dental Medicine program.

### Status update of the DANB and DALE Foundation Strategic Plan

A joint DANB/DALE Foundation Board virtual meeting is scheduled in October 2021 to determine the priorities and focus for the next FY, outlining the goals and financial considerations to deliver on those identified priorities.

Both DANB and the DALE Foundation share these Core Values: Integrity, Innovation, and Responsiveness. Development of the Integrated DANB/DALE Foundation Strategic Plan, FY21-23, was finalized in October 2020, and specific Goals and Strategies to be addressed in FY21 were identified. The Goals for this integrated DANB and DALE Foundation Strategic Plan, prioritized for FY21 in this order, include:

1. Increase the number of educated and credentialed individuals advancing oral healthcare.
2. Heighten awareness among the oral healthcare professions of the value of educating and credentialing dental assistants in the performance of many roles and responsibilities.
3. Establish and foster relationships and collaborations that meet the needs of oral healthcare professionals and protect the public.
4. Increase DANB and DALE Foundation stakeholder engagement.
5. Expand awareness among the public of the role of dental assistants and the critical importance of education and credentialing of dental assistants in the delivery of safe and efficient dental care.

### Marketing and Communications

The DANB Board of Directors voted to continue with a digital version of our quarterly newsletter *Certified Press* four times a year but mailing a print version of *Certified Press* twice a year, one of which will be the DARW edition.

DANB is getting a new logo! DANB's Marketing Department is working with a design agency with new ideas to be shared with the Board of Directors at the Winter meeting in February 2022.

DANB and DALE Foundation new websites are estimated to go-live in February 2022.

### **Report from the DALE Foundation**

The DALE Foundation is committed to **Dental Advancement through Learning and Education** in support of DANB's mission. The DALE Foundation's mission is *to benefit the public by providing quality education and conducting sound research to promote oral health*. The DALE Foundation held its Annual Meeting Aug. 5, 2021.

### **Liz Koch Memorial Scholarship Update**

The DALE Foundation launched the Liz Koch Memorial Scholarship in 2014 which is open to all dental assistants, DANB certificants and other oral healthcare professionals. The 2021 Liz Koch Memorial Scholarship launched April 6, 2021, with a deadline of May 31, 2021. After receiving 21 completed applications, the scholarship committee selected four winners, who received scholarship funds to go toward their professional development goals plus three continuing education products of their choice from the DALE Foundation.

Winners:

- Joanna Girdner, CDA, EFDA
- Kalyn Rhodes, CDA
- Clarissa Torgersen
- Jacqueline Wilson

See the DALE Foundation website ([dalefoundation.org](http://dalefoundation.org)) for more information about the winners.

### **The DALE Foundation Board of Trustees Updates**

The following Trustees were elected or automatically succeeded to the following positions for FY 21-22:

- President: Lori Gagliardi, CDA, FADAA, RDA, RDH, Ed.D.
- President-Elect: Guin Juckett, CDA, CPFDA, CRFDA, EFDA, FADAA
- Secretary-Treasurer: Vicki Brett, CDA, RDH, B.S.D.H.
- Immediate Past President: Joanne Dawley, D.D.S.

The DALE Foundation will begin soliciting at least two DALE Foundation Leaders-in-Training (LITs) this fall. A call for nominations will go out Nov. 1, 2021 with response deadline no later than Jan. 10, 2022 so the Board can vote on nominees at the Winter meeting in February 2022.

### **Upcoming DALE Foundation Board of Directors Meetings**

The DALE Foundation Board of Trustees will hold its next winter meeting Feb. 3, 2022, and its next annual board meeting will be held Aug. 4, 2022. Additionally, the Board of Trustees will meet by conference calls throughout the year, between its scheduled winter and annual meetings.

### **DANB Board of Director Updates**

The DANB Board of Directors elected the following Directors to officer positions on the DANB Board for FY 21-22:

- Chair: Lois Bell, CDA, CPFDA, CRFDA, MADAA
- Vice Chair: Steven Holm, D.D.S.
- Secretary Treasurer: Connie Reed, CDA, EFDA, B.S.

Denise Romero, CDA, COA, FADAA, RDA, M.A., Ed.D.; Karen Comisi, CDA, RDA, FADAA; Sandra Garcia, CDA, RDA, FADAA, FAADOM completed their terms on the DANB Board of Directors Aug. 31, 2021.

**Upcoming DANB Board of Directors Meetings**

The DANB Board of Directors will hold its next winter meeting Feb. 4-5, 2022, and its next annual meeting Aug. 5-6, 2022. Additionally, the Board of Directors will meet by other conference calls throughout the year, between its two scheduled inperson meetings.