



Dental Assisting National Board

Posted Oct. 3, 2025

**Summary of major actions taken by DANB's Board of Directors at the  
2025 Annual Board Meeting**

Chicago, IL

July 24-25, 2025

Including a meeting of the DALE Foundation Board of Trustees

July 24, 2025

**DANB Directors in Attendance:**

Kimberly S. Plate, CDA, CPFDA, CRFDA, B.S., DANB Chair; Barbara Mousel, D.D.S., CDA, RDH, DANB Chair-Elect; Janée Tamayo, CDA, CPFDA, B.S., MSgt, USAF, DANB Immediate Past Chair; Meagan Mitchell, CDA, B.S., DANB Secretary-Treasurer; Vicki Brett, CDA, RDH, B.S.D.H.; Tanya Dorf Brunner, M.S., Public Member; Stephanie Bustos, CDA, RDA; Kerri H. Friel, CDA, COA, M.A., RDH; Sandra Garcia Young, CDA, CDIPC, RDA, FADAA, FAADOM; Carlos Gaxiola, CDIPC, RDA, RDHAP, RDH (not present); Frank Maggio, D.D.S.; Renee McNally, CDIPC, COA, CRFDA, CPFDA, CDA, RDA; Kishan Patel, CDA, COA, CPFDA, CRFDA; Royann Royer, CDA, RDH, M.P.H.; Lindsay Yates, D.D.S.

**DALE Foundation Trustees in Attendance:**

Vicki Brett, CDA, RDH, B.S.D.H., DALE Foundation President; Royann Royer, CDA, RDH, M.P.H., DALE Foundation Secretary-Treasurer; Kerri Friel, CDA, COA, RDH, M.A.; Carlos Gaxiola, CDIPC, RDA, RDHAP, RDH

DANB's Chief Executive Officer Laura Skarnulis serves as an ex officio member of DANB's Board of Directors and the DALE Foundation Board of Trustees.

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**Engagement with Key Stakeholders**

DANB's Communities of Interest

The Board engaged in several strategic discussions and activities. Notably, the Board was joined by Dr. Betsy Shapiro, the Executive Director of the American Dental Association, who provided an update on ADA activities and participated in a Q&A with the Board. Additionally, DANB's Communities of Interest participated in meeting, which included representatives and presentations from the American Association of Dental Boards (AADB), the American Dental Association (ADA): Council on Dental Education & Licensure (CDEL), Council on Dental Practice (CDP), the American Dental Association (ADA): Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA), the American Dental Assistants Association (ADAA), the American Dental Education Association (ADEA), the Association for Dental Safety (ADS, formerly OSAP), and the Association of Dental Support Organizations (ADSO).

Together, DANB's Communities of Interest and the Board discussed emerging topics, such as the Oral Preventive Assistant (OPA), artificial intelligence in dentistry, the Dental Assisting Professional Model, and current issues impacting nonprofits and certifying organizations.

ADS Institute for Dental Safety and Science

The Association for Dental Safety (ADS) founded a new organization, the ADS Institute for Dental Safety and Science, to fill a critical need for developing, updating, and disseminating dental infection control guidelines and best practices, a role previously filled by the CDC's Division of Oral Health. DANB's Board of Directors supports

this new organization and recognizes the critical leadership role it will play in advancing infection control best practices. The Board unanimously voted to formally endorse the ADS Institute for Dental Safety and Science.

## **Assessment and Certification Updates**

### Dental Assisting Professional Model

Representatives from across the dentistry profession created the [Dental Assisting Professional Model](#), with the goals of supporting dental assistants, the dental community, and the public. The model does this by fostering workforce growth, elevating the profession, and supporting career advancement and mobility — all in service of enhancing the ability to recruit and retain qualified dental assistants. The Board unanimously endorsed the model and recognized the work of the Professional Model Workgroup.

### Research Initiatives

DANB is exploring dental assisting workforce trends and pathways to increase the number of qualified dental assistants, including researching Registered Apprenticeship Programs as an eligibility pathway. These programs provide structured education and paid on-the-job training, with support from employers and dental associations. This research aligns with DANB's ongoing efforts to address workforce shortages and expand pathways to CDA certification. Additionally, DANB is conducting research on Expanded Functions Dental Assistants (EFDAs) and factors associated with widespread adoption and utilization of EFDAs in dental practices, as well as potential barriers. This research will support the profession and is expected to be submitted to journals in the fall.

### Policy Updates

The Board revised a policy to remove barriers to candidates and certificants and approved the permanent implementation of the reduced missed exam fee of \$75.

## **Education and Engagement Activities**

### Educational Products

Six new education products have been launched in 2025, including five complimentary webinar products that are a part of the [Empowered Workplaces for Dental Assistants Toolkit](#).

### Engagement Activities

The 2025 partnership and engagement activity emphasized reaching priority markets and relationship building with key communities of interest. We participated in 47 engagement activities in 2025, including exhibiting at 11 dental conferences, delivering 21 presentations (8 in-person), and a variety of other engagement meetings with key agencies.

Engagement with dental assisting community remains strong and DANB is reaching wider audiences through social media, new channels, fresh content, and sharing news. The 2025 Dental Assistant Recognition Week, a large campaign intended to promote and celebrate dental assistants and build awareness and appreciation for dental assisting, was DANB's biggest campaign to date, with more than 2.5 million impressions.

## **Scholarships**

DANB and the DALE Foundation have increased their scholarships efforts and investment to provide more opportunity to those interested in education, exams and certification. Over the last two years, the number of scholarships that DANB and the DALE Foundation offer has doubled from two to four. There has been increased interest in scholarships, with some scholarships drawing as many as 600 applicants in a year. Considering the exceptional interest in these offerings, DANB not only increased scholarship funding, but also refined the application processes and streamlined the targeted use of funds received for the DANB/DALE Foundation Scholarship and Liz Koch Memorial Scholarship to better support scholarship applicants and recipients.

### DANB/DALE Foundation Scholarship

The 2025 scholarship received more than 600 applications from across the country and 19 dental assistants were selected to receive the scholarship. Recipients received between \$250 and \$1,000 to further their education, earn credentials, and support their communities.

### Liz Koch Memorial Scholarship

For more than a decade, the Liz Koch Memorial Scholarship has helped aspiring and current dental professionals advance their education and achieve their career goals. Each recipient received between \$250 and \$1,000 for professional development activities. In 2025, 10 recipients were selected from hundreds of applicants.

### ADS-DANB-DALE Foundation Andrew Whitehead Education and Certification Scholarship

This scholarship supports oral healthcare professionals in their pursuit of the [CDIPC](#) and [DISIPC](#) certifications. In 2025, more than 300 applications were received and [50 scholarships were awarded](#).

## **Other Priorities and Initiatives**

### Legislative Activity and Government Relations

DANB continues to monitor and develop strategies to address new laws and regulations affecting dental assistants, as well as emerging state-level issues related to dental assisting requirements and scope of practice.

## **Board of Directors Updates**

### Board Leadership

The DANB Board of Directors elected the following individuals to officer positions of the DANB Board of Directors for the 2025-2026 Board Year, beginning September 1, 2025:

- Sandra Garcia Young, CDA, CDIPC, RDA, FADAA, FAADOM – DANB Chair-Elect / DALE Foundation President
- Kerri H. Friel, CDA, COA, RDH, M.A. – DANB Secretary-Treasurer / DALE Foundation Secretary-Treasurer

Per the succession requirements outlined in the bylaws, in the 2025-2026 term, the Immediate Past Chair position will be filled by Kimberly Plate, CDA, CPFDA, CRFDA, B.S, and the Chair position will be filled by Barbara Mousel, D.D.S., CDA, RDH.

### New Leaders-in-Training

The DANB Board of Directors appointed two Leaders-in-Training to the Board for a term beginning September 1, 2025, and concluding August 31, 2027. This development initiative is designed to cultivate future leaders within DANB and the oral health profession at large. Per the bylaws, Leaders-in-Training are nonvoting members of the DANB Board. Leaders-in-Training appointees are:

- Chavelle Galton-Rice, CDA, RDA, EFDA2, DAADOM
- Jason Lawrence, D.D.S.

## **DALE Foundation Updates**

The DALE Foundation Board met on February 5, 2025. During the meeting, the Board reflected on the successes of the year, reviewed DALE Foundation financials, and discussed the Leaders-in-Training program. Additionally, Board discussed opportunities to address the dental assisting workforce shortage through career development initiatives. The initial phase of this work is slated to begin in Q4 2025.

## **Upcoming Meetings**

The 2026 Winter Meeting will be held in Austin, TX, from February 4-6, 2026.