



Dental Assisting National Board

Posted March 22, 2024

**Summary of major actions taken by DANB's Board of Directors at the
2024 Winter Board Meeting**

San Diego, CA

February 3, 2024

Including a Joint meeting with the DALE Foundation Board of Trustees

February 2, 2024

DANB Directors in Attendance:

Janée Tamayo, CDA, CPFDA, BS, MSgt, USAF, Chair; Kimberly S. Plate, CDA, CPFDA, CRFDA, B.S., Chair-Elect; Meagan Mitchell, CDA, BS, Secretary-Treasurer; Lois Bell, CDA, CDIPC, CPFDA, CRFDA, MADAA, Immediate Past Chair; Tanya Dorf Brunner, M.S., Public Member; Kerri H. Friel, CDA, COA, MA, RDH; Frank Maggio, D.D.S.; Barbara Mousel, D.D.S., CDA, RDH; Kishan Patel, CDA, COA, CPFDA, CRFDA; Lindsey Yates, D.D.S.

Incoming Director (participated in the meeting without a vote):

Renee McNally, BS, COA, CDIPC, QOA, RDA, CDA, CPFDA, CRFDA, SOA

DALE Foundation Trustees in Attendance:

Michael Conte, D.M.D., M.P.H., President; Vicki Brett, CDA, RDH, B.S.D.H, President-Elect; Royann Royer, CDA, RDH, M.P.H., Secretary-Treasurer; Guinevere B. Juckett, CDA, CPFDA, CRFDA, CDIPC, EFDA, FADAA, FAADOM, Immediate Past President; Lois Bell, CDA, CDIPC, CPFDA, CRFDA, MADAA; Joanne Dawley, D.D.S.; Sandra Garcia, CDA, CDIPC, RDA, FADAA, FAADOM; Carlos Gaxiola, CDIPC, RDA, RDHAP, RDH; Janée Tamayo, CDA, CPFDA, B.S., MSgt, USAF; Stephanie Bustos, CDA, RDA (Leader-in-Training / Nonvoting)

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.

2023-2028 Strategic Plan

Strategic plan initiatives are well underway with many exciting milestones achieved to date. The [Radiation Health and Safety \(RHS\) exam, practice test, and application materials in Spanish](#) launched in January and align with the organization's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) and supporting the profession. Additionally, the [workforce coalition](#) was formed and held its first meetings. This coalition is dedicated to finding innovative solutions that champion the essential role of dental assistants in the industry. Furthermore, the [Dental Assisting Professional Model Workgroup](#) will hold its first meeting and will focus on addressing the challenges of inconsistency in dental assisting requirements and scope of practice from state to state. [Read more about the strategic plan.](#)

Assessment and Certification Updates

The Job Task Analysis (JTA) project has continued to progress, with the JTA validation survey launching in early January. The survey will provide data for the development of the Dental Assisting National Model in addition to the information gathered during the May 2023 JTA meeting.

DANB started administering the Washington State Jurisprudence (WSJ) exam using a new remote format without live proctors. This format is a cost-effective option for exams not requiring in-person security.

As part of its work to reduce barriers for candidates, DANB's Board approved three policies recommended by its Candidate and Certificant Services Committee. The "DANB Exam Reasonable Accommodations Policy" was revised to streamline the process and make it easier for candidates with disabilities to request testing accommodations. The "Intent to Graduate Policy" extended the time a candidate has to submit graduation documentation from 90 days to 6 months. The Board also approved a temporary 30% discount on the Spanish RHS exam, when taken in combination with another exam (i.e., ICE or GC), to not additionally burden candidates taking multiple exams.

DANB's CDA and COA certifications are accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA). Recently, NCCA's standards have been updated to reflect changes in the certification development and administration fields, as well as changes necessary to help ensure fair and equitability of accredited programs. As DANB prepares for a new five-year accreditation cycle starting in 2026, DANB's programs have been assessed against the updated NCCA standards, and DANB is pleased to report that our recently updated policies and practices meet and exceed the new requirements.

Communications and Engagement

Communication Initiatives

DANB celebrated the 75th anniversary of the Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) certification in 2023 with a multi-faceted campaign that kicked off in July 2023. The campaign was successful in building engagement and increasing the number of new CDA certificants. DANB also launched an online shop for DANB-branded merchandise to raise awareness and foster pride in holding certification. In January 2024, DANB rolled out the new certificate design for DANB's national certifications. The organization continues to engage through digital media including the recently redesigned website and social media platforms. Finally, more than 48,000 digital badges were issued in 2023.

Engagement Activities

2023 partnership and engagement activities included a diverse and robust conference and meeting schedule focused on reaching priority markets to maximize growth and relationship building with key communities of interest. The organization exhibited at 20 events and had the opportunity to present to audiences at 10 events. In addition to exhibiting, we also attended a variety of meetings and events in person and remotely, including those addressing topics related to dentistry, education, workforce development, and advocacy.

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. Four scholarships are now offered. Below is an overview of recent and upcoming activities for each scholarship.

ADAA/DANB Scholarship

The 2023 ADAA/DANB Scholarship launched on Sept. 6, 2023. This year, there were 26 approved applications, which was a 100% increase from 2022. The increase in applications is attributed to opening the scholarship to ADAA student members. The five recipients were announced on December 8, 2023. [Read more about the recipients here.](#)

DANB/DALE Foundation Scholarship

The scholarship launched on January 8, 2024, and was open through March 4, 2024. Recipients will receive between \$250 and \$1,000 for dental assisting education, exams, credentials, or activities that advance DEI. Winners will be announced in June.

Liz Koch Memorial Scholarship Update

The Liz Koch Memorial Scholarship will launch on April 1, 2024, and will close on May 17, 2024. Winners will be announced in August 2024.

OSAP-DANB-DALE Foundation Andrew Whitehead Education and Certification Scholarship

At the 2023 OSAP Annual Conference, the Collaboration announced the creation of this scholarship, which will support oral healthcare professionals in their pursuit of the [CDIPC](#) and [DISIPC](#) certifications. \$100,000 has been raised in support of the scholarship. The scholarship is accepting applications from February 22, 2024, through April 1, 2024, and winners will be announced at the OSAP Conference in May 2024.

DALE Foundation Updates

In 2023, the DALE Foundation launched six new products, inclusive of four complimentary webinars. In January 2024, the organization launched another new product, the RHS Practice Test in Spanish, to support those individuals preparing for DANB's RHS exam in Spanish. Related to this work, the English-language RHS Practice Test was updated to Plain English to improve accessibility for all learners.

At the recommendation of the Policy Committee, the DALE Foundation Board of Trustees approved updated DALE Foundation Bylaws and new committee charters for all standing committees of the Board.

Other Priorities and Initiatives

Board Governance Updates

At the recommendation of the Governance Committee, the DANB Board of Directors approved two new governance policies — the "Whistleblower Policy" and the "Signature Authorization and Delegation of Authority Policy."

Legislative Activity and Government Relations

DANB published the 2023 editions of the [DANB State Fact Booklet](#) and [DANB State Career Ladder Templates](#) for Dental Assistants in October 2023, and is developing a timeline for continued updates in 2024. 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 Leadership Updates

In September 2023, the DANB Board of Directors convened to consider nominees for Board vacancies and elected the following individuals:

- Kishan Patel, CDA, COA, CPFDA, CRFDA, elected as a Director, effective September 1, 2023
- Tanya Dorf Brunner, M.S., elected as Public Member, effective September 1, 2023
- Renee McNally, CDA, COA, CPFDA, CRFDA, CDIPC, RDA, B.S., elected as a Director, effective September 1, 2024

At the 2024 Winter Meeting, at the recommendation of the DALE Foundation Board of Trustees, the DANB Board of Directors elected Stephanie Bustos, CDA, RDA, to serve as a DALE Foundation Trustee, effective September 1, 2024.

Strategic Discussions and Guest Presentations

Denise Roosendaal, CAE, Executive Director of the Institute for Credentialing Excellence (I.C.E.), joined the Joint meeting to discuss I.C.E.'s "Future of Credentialing Report," providing insights into key findings of the report and recommendations for credentialing organizations. The Boards engaged in a discussion noting alignment of the DANB/DALE Foundation Strategic Plan with the report's recommendations. Following this, McCabe Message Partners summarized key findings from recent research exploring the dental community's perspectives on their state's current dental assisting requirements assistants, and the public's expectations of dental assistant training, education, and credentials. Finally, consultants from the Exeter Group presented DEI survey data, sharing insights from over 500 certificants and learners, as well as internal perspectives from staff and board members.

Additionally, the DALE Foundation Board of Trustees were joined by the National Network for Oral Health Access (NNOHA) Education Director Candace Hsu Owen, RDH, M.S., M.P.H., and Board member McAllister Castelaz, D.M.D., FAGD, who shared an overview of NNOHA's work as well as insights and trends in dental safety net providers.

Upcoming Meetings

The Boards' next regularly scheduled Annual meeting will be held in Chicago, IL, from July 25-26, 2024.