2018 Institutional Plan Update – WEEKEND DENTAL ASSISTANT SCHOOL

One of our goals is to be always be on the leading edge, being to “go-to” school for Dental Assisting in Wisconsin. As part of our continued efforts to keep with the times, in 2017 we implemented a many new things, discussed below. As we help our students enter this amazing field of dentistry, we strive to make it easy during the application process and understand what is means to be a dental assistant. We realize that potential students lead busy lives, so we keep a smooth communication all along the way.

We had a very successful and positive school visit with our Educational Approval Program representative in 2017. She was very complimentary of our school, our procedures and student outcomes.

Excellent communication is key as a long-term goal. Staff are direct and communicate in a timely manner. Even more emphasis had been added in this area. Seven day a week monitoring of incoming communication is done. When student communicate with their application form, the access has been refined to be easily accessible on our website pages. It is clear, and easy to submit, or can be done at an orientation visit. Done by computer, staff receive it within moments of submission from a potential student. Then immediate contact can be made with the applicant. Contact includes arranging personal meeting, phone contact, email, and increasingly – via text when necessary. A rule governing cell phone usage by students during class lecture and clinicals has been addressed as a new rule.

We have now implemented an *active shooter response* training for all instructors and students. The utmost safety of all our students and instructors is paramount. Incorporated into our rules and regulations review with students on the first day of class, is this informative training, should an active shooter situation arise. Our teaching facility is unique in that there are not only multiple exits, but safer areas within the confines of the building, if the exits are not an option. One room has 1-foot thick concrete walls. Two other rooms have doors which now have devices to block from opening once inside the room.

We now offer a *Military Discount*. As a thank you for their service, this tuition discount is offered to active duty military, retired military, military reserves, and guard. We believe this helps them achieve the education they need to become a great Dental Assistant. After providing proof of their service, they receive a 10% discount off their full tuition payment when registering. We have always noted that students that have or have had a military commitment like this, are looking for an accelerated way to enter this field.

Instructor and student continued education is important to us. One of our instructors has become Nationally Certified from the DANB in Orthodontics. Another has continued her studies in cone beam digital radiology and oral surgery pathology. Our students give high evaluations of each instructor in 2017, and all their feedback is read and appreciated. Students now have the new option of using a tooth anatomy model with the anatomy of dental disease and restorative dentistry for their studies. This is one more way of accomplishing outstanding hands-on training in class, but is also useful after graduation.

More than ever, we have been contacted by private practices, and corporate dental practices to hire our graduates. Our focus is always on our end goal of positive student outcomes, with individuals employed and happy in their career as a dental assistant. For many, their lives have been forever changed, and we are so proud to have been a part of that. Our positive teaching atmosphere and enthusiastic instructors make all the difference in the world. Our instructor meetings continue to be geared for that.

Our website continues to provide a great look at becoming a Dental Assistant. More educational videos have been added and more feedback from our student employed graduates have been added as well. It represents a good look at dental assisting as a full career attending Weekend Dental Assistant School. It takes a deep understanding of dentistry and of social skills to be successful in this career. We want to remain the top dental assistant school with our reputation, excellent instructors, and teaching facility.