



International College of Dentists

Leadership Initiative

Dear Colleague:

Seldom in our lifetime do we have the opportunity to be instrumental in initiating a truly new and innovative endeavor. For you, your region's Leadership Coordinator, this may well be that once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Please look closely at the enclosed brochure to discover a truly unique mentoring program, **Great Expectations**, conceived by the Dallas County Dental Society and the Texas Component of the International College under the leadership of Moody Alexander. Moody approached his long time friend, Art Dugoni, for assistance in creating this mentoring program for the first year students at Baylor and the rest is history. Recipient of the ADA Golden Apple Award in 2008, the word has spread from Dallas to Houston, San Antonio, San Francisco, and beyond.

There are two unique key features to this program that set it apart from past professional mentoring efforts. The first is the utilization of the naturally occurring *peer influence* between first year students and their upper classmates. As time progresses, this peer influence is transferred to volunteer faculty and practicing dentists. The second unique aspect is that it is an ongoing program rather than a one time event. This will require a commitment by a number of interested dentists and you, as Leadership Coordinator, can play a pivotal role in identifying those volunteers.

Your ICD Leadership Initiative Committee will be working to collect information from the various schools that have begun this process so that we can share their successes and their not-such-successes. If you have any questions about the program we will try to help directly or refer you to others who have begun this program in their school.

Please note that this program must be faculty driven. Only the faculty will have the knowledge of which upper class students have the professional, exemplary, and ethical attitudes the program is trying to impart. As such, this brochure is directed at Deans and key faculty whom you might approach to help launch this program.

The brochure is available for free via the internet in either PDF (Adobe Acrobat) or Microsoft Publisher file form or reprints can be purchased from the Central Office through Executive Administrator Kathleen Bula.

Perhaps the most important outcome of the first few Great Expectations Programs is the discovery that it is a *whole lot of fun* for all involved.

Let the fun begin!

The Leadership Initiative Committee

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