



By Dr. Richard Haught

Dental Education: Our Legacy – Our Future

What would the dental profession look like without a solid dental education system? Where would we be as dental professionals without the educational foundation supplied by dental schools? Dental education upholds the integrity of dentistry as a trusted health care profession. This integrity should never be comprised. Without a strong, resilient dental education system, the practice of dentistry will be at risk.

This past July, the ADA Foundation, with support from the American Dental Association, launched a national campaign to raise awareness for the needs in dental education. ***Dental Education: Our Legacy – Our Future*** is a collaborative effort of dental schools and both dental and specialty organizations are working together to bring attention to the challenges facing dental education in the U.S. By promoting a culture of philanthropy within dentistry to address these issues, we're challenging the dental community to come forward and support dental education.

With dental schools facing a variety of challenges including faculty shortages, aging facilities and equipment, lack of diversity, escalating costs and lagging government support, this awareness effort is imperative now more so than ever before. By addressing these issues head-on, we will strengthen our dental education system.

Our Legacy – Our Future is not a fundraising campaign and won't collect a single dollar of its own. Rather, it is designed to showcase the individual fundraising campaigns of our partners. Each and every donor can decide where and how they want their donation to be used. In total, we hope to help our partners collectively raise \$1 billion between July 1, 2004 and December 31, 2029.

Since launching in July with 61 partners, *Our Legacy – Our Future* has already made an impact. We have welcomed 12 new partners over the past four months bringing the total to 73. With these partners and their continued commitment, *Our Legacy – Our Future* is moving forward with encouragement from across the country.

For more information about *Dental Education: Our Legacy – Our Future*, visit www.ourlegacyourfuture.org.