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Inaugural Year of *Dental Education: Our Legacy – Our Future* Sees “Dramatic Upswing” in Awareness of Issues

Nationwide Network of Partners Takes Steps to Conquer the Challenges Facing Dental Education in the United States

A lot can happen in a year, and in the case of *Dental Education: Our Legacy – Our Future*, one year meant taking progressive steps to conquer the challenges facing dental education in the United States.

It was one year ago this past July when this initiative, underwritten by the ADA Foundation, publicly announced that—together with a nationwide network of partners—it would bring awareness to the challenges facing dental education, create a culture of philanthropy within dentistry, and solicit a call to action to address the issues.

“In one year, we have

seen a dramatic upswing in the number of people who are aware of the issues facing dental schools and the dental education system,” said Dr. Richard Valachovic, *Our Legacy – Our Future* steering committee member and executive director of the American Dental Education Association. “Prior to *Our Legacy – Our Future*, there was no single, nationwide effort that our schools, our associations, and foundations could turn to for support. Now, with *Our Legacy – Our Future* in place, we can work to ensure we uphold the integrity of our profession.”

Our Legacy – Our Future has seen a 35% partner

participation increase over the course of one year, with a total of 92 partners (51 recipient partners, 39 facilitating partners, and 2 donor partners).

The objective of *Our Legacy – Our Future* is to help its partner organizations collectively raise more than \$500 million by December 31, 2014. It does not exist to accept donations on behalf of dental education, but rather donations secured as a result of *Our Legacy – Our Future* will be made directly to partner organizations.

For more information, visit the Web site located at ourlegacyourfuture.org or call (312) 587-4716.