



**DENTAL EDUCATION**  
OUR LEGACY - OUR FUTURE

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***Dental Education: Our Legacy – Our Future Celebrates Successful First Year***

**CHICAGO – July 24, 2007** – A lot can happen in a year, and in the case of *Dental Education: Our Legacy – Our Future* one year means taking progressive steps to conquer the challenges facing dental education in the United States. It was one year ago when this initiative, underwritten by the ADA Foundation, publicly announced that together with a nationwide network of partners it would bring awareness of the challenges facing dental education, create a culture of philanthropy within dentistry and solicit a call to action to address the issues.

*Our Legacy – Our Future* is working hard to support solutions to alleviate faculty shortages in dental schools, improve the lack of diversity in the classroom, renovate aging physical and clinical facilities and fill gaps from lagging federal and state support that has resulted in escalating operational and management costs associated with a dental education.

“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 percent partner participation increase over the course of one year with a total of 87 partners including 49 Recipient Partners, 36 Facilitating Partners and two donor partners. The *Our Legacy – Our Future* Steering Committee has grown too, adding Facilitating Partner Chair Dr. Paul Kennedy and Recipient Partner Chair Dr. Ken Kalkwarf.

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. The amount of those donations will be counted toward the overall effort.

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*Our Legacy – Our Future* is so popular among development and fundraising directors, a free two-day Fundraising Academy, hosted by the ADA Foundation will take place in August in Chicago.

“We are fortunate to be able to offer our partners an outstanding collection of free resources that can be utilized in each individual fundraising campaign,” said Dr. Les Seldin, *Our Legacy – Our Future* Steering Committee vice-chair. “Each partner has access to invaluable pieces of communication including fact sheets, brochures, videos, newsletters and a comprehensive Web site that houses everything to make it as simple and easy as possible to use.”

Attendees to the ADA Annual Session in San Francisco in September are invited to visit the ADA Pavilion to find out more about *Our Legacy – Our Future*.

**About Dental Education: *Our Legacy – Our Future***

***Dental Education: Our Legacy – Our Future*** is a national, collaborative effort of partner organizations created to raise awareness of the challenges facing dental education. *Our Legacy – Our Future* will help its partner organizations collectively raise more than \$500 million between July 1, 2004 and December 31, 2014. *Our Legacy – Our Future* is underwritten by the ADA Foundation with additional support from the American Dental Association. For more information, visit [www.ourlegacyourfuture.org](http://www.ourlegacyourfuture.org) or call (312) 587-4716.

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