

From the Desk of Dean Patrick J. Ferrillo, Jr., D.D.S | August 2012

Welcome to the fourth in a series of white papers that addresses our school's vision for the future and what it will take for us to achieve it.

A Legacy of Leadership Pacific in the Vanguard of Oral Health Education

Every day, great examples of leadership are displayed around the clinics, classrooms and research labs at University of the Pacific, Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry. If you're familiar with the heritage of the dental school, it should come as no surprise to hear that the people at Pacific continually show their passion for paving the way.

Our commitment to excellence keeps our school in the vanguard, a term which describes people who are foremost in a movement, field or cultural trend.

Leadership is one characteristic we especially foster, contributing to our success as an organization and keeping us on the forefront of oral health education around the world.

Leadership: One of Our Seven Core Values

Leadership—the ability to guide, direct or influence people—is one of the core values at Pacific Dugoni. In our last update of the school's strategic plan, students, faculty, staff and alumni all felt that it was important to include leadership as one of our school's hallmarks. Our other core values of humanism, innovation, reflection, stewardship, collaboration and philanthropy are all invaluable ingredients, but it is leadership that maximizes their strength.

Even our vision statement—"Leading the improvement of health by advancing oral health"—is testament to the importance placed on this core value.

We strive to emphasize the importance of being a leader among students, faculty, staff and alumni alike. We think of dental professionals as leaders even if they do not see themselves that way. After all, they lead teams and colleagues in their dental practices, advise their patients, and serve as leaders among their families, friends and communities.

Programs at the Forefront

Pacific Dugoni has a history of leadership in education. We were on the forefront of ushering in a humanistic approach to dental school. Today, a humanistic environment is one of the standards set by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) for all American dental education programs, and we are proud that our school has a rich history of humanistic education.

We are leaders in providing accelerated professional education through our DDS program, the only program of its kind in the United States offering a four-year DDS program in just three years, as well as through the introduction of our two-year International Dental Studies program, established in 1990.

In the last several years, we have examined and enhanced our educational programs as we implement the Pacific Dental Helix Curriculum. We are also taking a leadership approach as we transform our clinical model in design, configuration and operation. Our new plans call for eight small group practice clinics more closely resembling private practices in order to improve the student and patient experience. Working in teams gives students greater opportunity to practice the leadership skills they will call upon throughout their careers.

As we prepare students to succeed and lead in the world of oral healthcare, it is important that our curriculum and clinics stay up to date. We must all work together to ensure that our programs continue to develop expert dental professionals who will uphold the highest standards of our profession.

People Making a Difference

STUDENTS AS LEADERS

Our students eagerly seek opportunities to make a difference in a variety of ways, from volunteering at Student Community Outreach for Public Education (SCOPE) events and Project Homeless Connect, to active involvement with state and national dental organizations such as the American Student Dental Association, American Dental Education Association and International Association for Dental Research. The students have also launched the Dugoni Practical Leadership Initiative, a student-organized leadership program open to students, faculty and staff, offering lunchtime seminars to provide learning opportunities and foster leadership skill development.

FACULTY AND STAFF HELPING LEAD THE WAY

Our employees are forward-thinking individuals with a wealth of ideas and eagerness to grow professionally. We continue to invest in our people through leadership training programs designed for faculty through the Dental Faculty Council, as well as staff-focused training programs put on by our Dental Staff Advisory Council. Our faculty and staff members set an example of excellence in leadership for our students and continually strive to advance the school and lead the way into a bright future.

ALUMNI LEADERSHIP IN THE COMMUNITY

Many of our alumni are active and engaged in their profession. They serve as leaders of their local dental societies. They give back to their communities through projects such as Give Kids a Smile, Missions of Mercy, Remote Area Medical and many other community events large and small. We know they stay engaged with their communities because they tell us wonderful stories from “back home” at our alumni receptions and annual Alumni Meeting each year. Some alumni also get involved as educators here at the school and share their insights with the next generation of dental professionals.

PARTNERING ACROSS BORDERS

Leadership extends beyond the boundaries of any one city, state, nation or continent. Through our Global Initiative in Dental Education, we have created new partnerships or exchange programs with schools in China, Egypt, India, Kuwait and other countries. Our International Dental Studies program attracts more than 500 applicants for 22 seats each year. Several of our administrators also sit on the board of the International Federation of Dental Educators and Associations (IFDEA), a group in which I’m also closely involved through my role as IFDEA president.

Pacific Dugoni is well positioned on the Pacific Rim to collaborate with new or established dental schools and professionals wherever they may be and help lead dentistry forward worldwide.

A PHILANTHROPIC SPIRIT

The Pacific Dugoni family invests in its future to make sure it remains one of the leading dental schools in the country. In 2006, we completed what was at the time the largest comprehensive fundraising campaign of any dental school in the history of the United States. With an initial goal of \$50 million, the school raised a remarkable \$65.7 million. In the years since, our donors have remained unwavering in their support and involvement.

Preparing for Our Future

How do we continue our tradition of leadership? What is the next step forward in our journey?

One key part of the answer is to make sure we provide world-class school facilities for our world-class people and programs. We realize that a leader must evolve, plan strategies for the future and make changes that set the pace for others. Our move to a new facility in San Francisco is an opportunity for us to do just that.

Our new campus, currently under renovation in San Francisco, will be a showcase for the very best in dental education, patient care and sustainability. We know we will be successful when people from other dental schools and academic institutions come to visit Pacific Dugoni and walk away filled with inspiration from our new campus. State-of-the-art facilities will allow us to fully implement our innovative new curriculum and clinical model to benefit our student and patients. The building's flexible design will allow us to reconfigure clinical, learning and research spaces for decades to come. The new location in the heart of San Francisco's South of Market (SoMa) neighborhood will provide ease of access and foster opportunities for new programs and groundbreaking collaboration.

For the latest news about the new campus please visit www.dental.pacific.edu/plans. You'll find floor plans, videos, photos, new architectural renderings and learn about the many years of planning that have gone into this historic project.

The support of the Pacific Dugoni family of alumni, donors and other community members is truly keeping us on the forefront. We are continuing this *great* history of leadership at our great institution—and we hope you will be part of the story.

