

dəxwxayəbus Dental Therapy Education Program

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SVC | Skagit Valley College

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Why dəx^wxayəbus? It Translates to "Place of Smiles"

Native Lushootseed language highlights the program's roots and emphasis on serving tribal communities.

Focusing on the positive ("smiles") recognizes an underlying motivation to develop the program: moving toward a new era of health care that brings smiles, both for those providing and receiving the care.



daxwxayabus: a collaboration

NPAIHB: Supporting role

Meets with tribes to share about the dental therapy program







dəx^wxayəbus Program Overview

Program Overview

- 3 academic year condensed into 2.5 calendar years
- 10 quarters (30 Months)
- 172 Credits (currently a AAS with a goal of forging a path towards a BAS degree completion. (only missing a few general education requirements)
- Competency based
- CODA Accredited

Curriculum

- Year 1 Pre-clinical and Didactic
- Year 2 Clinical applications and advanced topics, Community project implementation and community rotations
- Year 3 Final clinical requirements, competencies, boards and Preceptorship

Program goals

- Develop dental therapists who provide quality clinical care that is grounded in evidence-based practices.
- Recognize the complexity of patient care and partner with patients to collaborate with other dental specialists and health care providers in managing patient's comprehensive oral health needs.
- Promote oral health needs of underserved communities and become oral health advocates when leading community service-related activities.
- Apply research principles to conduct community-based projects.

What is a Dental Therapist?

- Similar to the PA or NP model in the medical field.
- Focused on oral health prevention.
- Has overlap in scope with both a dental hygienist and a dentist but is trained to fill in gaps in our oral health care delivery model and increase access. (Think culturally responsive care)
- Pushes the team to the higher ends of their scope.
- Works collaboratively with the dental team and other medical providers to expand dental access across different practice settings both rural and urban. Schools, nursing homes, mobile clinks, medical practices, hospital settings etc.

How can DT's help rural communities?

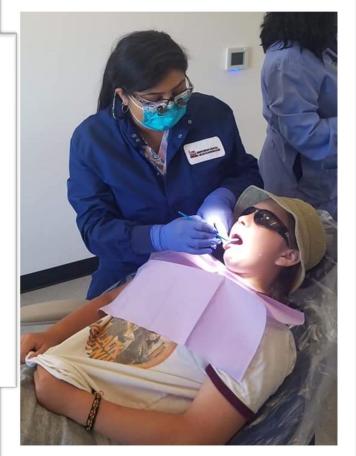
- Workforce is recruited from rural communities.
- The program is focused on student recruitment from underserved communities with the expectation that they will return to those communities to practice (preceptorship sites are identified during recruitment)
- Community projects are a significant part of their curriculum.
- Trained to provide care at local and reginal events using portable equipment, dental vans (smile mobile and others).
- Partnerships! We establish preceptorships and community rotations in rural communities.

The Swinomish Indian Tribal Community now has two dental therapists who serve the community since 2019 and both are adjunct

faculty in the education program.



2019 Alaska DT Graduation - Ribbon Skirts



Asiah Gonzales, LDT/DHAT



Sarah Chagnon, LDT/DHAT

Thank You!

Any Questions, Comments?