

Lewis & Clark **NEWS** Community College

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For Immediate Release

January 28, 2010

Dental Hygiene Program Boasts 100 Percent Pass Rate on Board Exams for the Third Consecutive Year

Godfrey, Ill. – Lewis and Clark Dental Hygiene students have, for the third consecutive year, passed their board exams at a 100 percent rate, this time beating the national average score by more than 3 percent.

In all, 24 students took the new, computerized National Board Dental Hygiene exam at Pearson VUE Centers in Springfield, Ill. or St. Louis, Mo. in December 2009. Together, their average was 84.3 percent, 3.3 percent higher than the national average of 81 percent.

Out of 273 students from Lewis and Clark who have taken the National Board Dental Hygiene Exam since the program's inception in 1995, 269 passed on the first attempt and all four graduates who re-took the exam have since passed. For 10 out of the last 14 years, the program has seen a 100 percent pass rate.

Those same 24 students took the clinical exam at Lewis and Clark Community College on Dec. 12-13, finishing with an average score of 94 percent – the highest average ever boasted for a graduating class.

“We know it is a rigorous program in which we teach, but we teach to the ‘gold standard’ and have high expectations so the students are set up to succeed on these critical examinations,” said L&C Dental Hygiene Program Coordinator Michelle Singley. “These excellent scores are proof of the action looping that occurs in the teaching and learning environment. We evaluate what we teach each semester, determine how/if we can make it better and continue to assess the program. These awesome examination results are proving to be outcome measurements at their finest, and the devoted, committed faculty members who engage these students are applauded for all their hard work.”

“We congratulate the class of 2009 on all the efforts they put forth while in the program and during the time they were preparing for these exams,” Singley said.

All the students enrolled in a three-credit-hour elective course, DENT 295 - National Board Exam Review, taught by Cathy Anderson, CDA, RDH, BS, to assist them with the NBDHE preparation. In addition, all didactic Dental faculty at Lewis and Clark have increased the amount of computerized testing in their courses and have augmented case-based teaching and learning practices.

“The results of the national board and clinical exams are not only the reflection of high quality students, but also dedicated faculty and staff,” Dean of Health Sciences Donna Meyer said. “The Dental Hygiene faculty and staff need to be commended for their expertise and commitment to the students.”

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