



Strategic Plan Report — Goal 4

State dental associations will have a budget to support all in-state chapters by 2017.

Introduction

ASDA needs to build and strengthen its relationships with state dental associations to further its mission to introduce students to lifelong involvement in organized dentistry. This goal will help bridge the gap from student to practitioner by connecting students with the key contacts in the states they will practice.

Relationships with state dental associations can help maximize advocacy efforts within state governments on key issues; advance licensure reform efforts to eliminate the use of human subjects in initial clinical licensure exams; increase student representation in state dental associations' governance; provide students with opportunities for networking, mentorship, scholarships, leadership positions; participation in social events; learning about career opportunities; sponsorships and funding at both the chapter and national level.

Approach and Methodology

ASDA held conference calls with staff from thirty-five dental associations with dental schools in their state. The objective of the calls was to gather qualitative data about resources or benefits state dental associations offer to ASDA chapters and dental students in their state.

In addition to the thirty-five state dental associations, ASDA spoke with staff from the Washington D.C. Dental Society to learn more about their relationship with the Howard chapter. ASDA was unable to connect with the Alabama Dental Association.

The discussion focused on the following areas important to dental students based on ASDA's 2012 Membership Survey:

- Career resources
 - ASDA members value programs and services that help them transition into their professional careers.
- Events
 - ASDA members view events as an opportunity to network with future colleagues.
- Leadership opportunities
 - ASDA members want to develop new skills through leadership training and volunteer opportunities.
- Financial resources
 - ASDA members typically need financial resources to assist with chapter management.

Major Findings

All state dental associations have a budget to support in-state ASDA chapters. The results are reflected below by subject area. Results focused on common resources offered by states.

Career Resources

This area includes resources that help students transition from a student to a practicing dentist.

Mentorship Programs

- **Eight** states facilitate a formal mentorship program for dental students.
 - These programs focus on connecting dental students with dentists that live and practice near the dental school.
 - Once a mentorship connection is established states rely on the mentor and mentee to develop the relationship.
- **Six** states rely on their larger components located near the dental schools to administer mentoring programs. Components have a better understanding of the available mentors near the participating dental school.
- **Three** states have discontinued their mentorship program due to one of the following challenges:
 - Limited number of mentors
 - Geographic limitations
 - Low participation

Job Networking Events

- **Six** states host job networking events.
 - States have the unique ability to connect local dentists with students that may want to stay in the area.
 - Job networking events provide an opportunity for third-and fourth-year dental students to connect with dentists looking to sell a practice or hire an associate.

Visiting Dental Offices

- **Three** states give students the opportunity to visit different dental offices (e.g. corporate, specialty, private, small practice etc.).
 - This helps students get a better understanding of the type of practice they would like to enter once they graduate.

Events

This area includes events that are specific to students as well as other events that students are invited to attend.

State lobby days

- **Twenty-three** states host lobby days and invite students to attend.
 - Typically there is a training session to review the legislative priorities before heading to the capital.
- **Six** states host a legislative event instead of a traditional lobby day.
 - Some states are unable a lobby day due to the state's congressional schedule.

Lunch and Learns

- **Twenty-four** states host or participate in chapter lunch and learns.
 - These events provide a great opportunity for states to connect with dental students and to provide information on a topic that may not be covered by dental school curriculum.

ASDA Advocacy Academies

- **Five** states help chapters conduct an advocacy academy.
 - Advocacy academies are an advocacy staple for engaged ASDA chapters. They dive deeper into legislative issues through a series of educational seminars. These seminars may also include training for how to lobby at the federal and state level.

Annual Signing Days

- **Fourteen** states participate in annual signing days.
 - Signing days let states relay the value of ADA membership to fourth-year dental students.

ADA Success Programs

- **Eight** states participate in ADA Success programs.
 - These seminars allow states to present on topics most relevant to dental students.

White coat ceremonies

- **Five** states participate in white coat ceremonies.
 - States may provide a reception before or after the ceremony that transitions students into clinical service and care.

Leadership Opportunities

This area includes volunteer training programs and volunteer opportunities available to students.

Student representation on a council or a committee

- **Twenty-four** states have student representation on councils or committees.
 - **Nine** states allow students to participate in every council and committee.
 - **Eleven** states limit student participation to specific councils.
 - Advocacy/legislative, membership and new dentist are the most common councils that students have the ability to serve on.
 - Council and committee meetings typically take place during business hours. This makes it challenging for students to attend.
 - **Three** states allow students to participate in council meeting via conference call.

Student representation at House of Delegates Meeting

- **Twenty-five** states permit students to serve as delegates in their House of Delegates (HOD) meetings.
 - **Two states** have governing documents that preclude students from participating in HOD meetings.

Student representation on a Board

- **Fourteen** states allow students to serve on the Board.
 - The majority of students serve on the Board in a nonvoting capacity.

Leadership Training Programs:

- **Four** states facilitate leadership training programs.
 - These training programs give students the opportunity to learn about different management styles and provide them with the necessary tools to lead effectively.

Financial Resources

This area includes states that dedicate a portion of their budget to dental student activities as well as states that subsidize ASDA member dues.

Allocates annual budget amount to dental students

- **Seven** states allocate money annually that is specific to dental student initiatives. Some states even work with ASDA chapters to determine how that money could be spent throughout the year.

Helps with ASDA student dues

- **Two** states supplement some of the cost of ASDA dues.

Allows students to use office space for events

- **Two** states allow students to use their office space for events. This can be beneficial for schools that are not allowed to hold events on campus or are looking to save money on event space.

Provides funding to send students to ASDA national meetings

- **Two** states provide funding for students to attend ASDA's National Leadership Conference.

Conclusion

State dental associations provide support to ASDA chapters and dental students in several areas. The appendices of this report list these resources in more detail for each state. The information included is specific to subject area and is not comprehensive of all the resources each state currently provides.

ASDA appreciates all the state dental association staff that contributed to this report. Working with state dental associations will become an operational goal of the association. ASDA will work on the following areas:

- Promoting opportunities to collaborate with ASDA chapters on advocacy initiatives.
- Encouraging students to learn more about state dental associations resources and activities.
- Communicating on an annual basis with state dental associations to ensure the information recorded is accurate.