



Press Release

For Immediate Release: September 12, 2022

Contact: Sheree Storm, sstorm@dientes.org, 831-600-8256

Dientes Brings Nationwide Dental Residency Program to Santa Cruz – Another Offering in Dientes’ Suite of Workforce Investment Programs

(Santa Cruz, CA) Dientes launches Santa Cruz County’s first dental residency program in partnership with and sponsored by NYU Langone Hospitals, the world’s largest postdoctoral dental program to train dentists in the public health setting. In this inaugural year, Dientes is hosting two residents, Dr. Allison Bonsall and Dr. Sharon Osakue, who will meet high standards of quality, comprehensive dental care as they build an understanding of community health center service. They have already made a big impact, seeing 350 patients in their first 60 days.

Accredited by the American Dental Association’s Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA), the NYU Langone Hospitals Advanced Education in General Dentistry (AEGD) residency program turns accomplished dental-school graduates into advanced clinicians while residents concurrently provide oral healthcare to vulnerable communities with a focus on improving access to dental care.

Both residents have a strong desire to serve those in need. Dr. Bonsall hails from Medical University of South Carolina and comments on her experience so far, “It has been rewarding to care for patients, while gaining professional growth through the mentorship of the Dientes attendings.” Agreeing, Dr. Osakue, a graduate from Marquette University School of Dentistry, comments, “Dientes has such a great team atmosphere – I’m constantly surrounded by friendly faces who are always willing to help.”

On the launch of the dental residency program Dr. Sepi Taghvaei, Dientes EVP of Operations, remarks, “We are excited about our new residency program and all the other opportunities we offer our staff to grow in their careers. At Dientes, it’s about nurturing a passion for health

center service and creating better oral health for our community.”

The residency program is the latest addition to Dientes’ suite of workforce investment programs that include scholarships for Registered Dental Assistant with Extended Functions, sponsorships of National Health Service Corp scholars, and internships with Cabrillo College for hygienists and County Office of Education for dental assistants.

Dientes CEO Laura Marcus will be providing details about Dientes’ workforce investment programs at the HIP Community Forum, Wednesday September 14, 12-2pm. Tickets and information can be found here: <https://www.hipccc.org/hip-community-forum>

#

Photos: Dr. Allison Bonsall and Dr. Sharon Osakue 090122

Dientes Community Dental Care’s mission is to create lasting oral health for the underserved children and adults in Santa Cruz County and neighboring communities. 96% of Dientes’ patients live at or below the poverty level. Dientes accepts Medi-Cal and offers sliding scale fees for uninsured patients.